





THE  
MEMORY  
OF  
WASHINGTON;  
WITH  
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF HIS  
MOTHER AND WIFE.  
RELATIONS OF  
LAFAYETTE TO WASHINGTON;  
WITH  
INCIDENTS AND ANECDOTES IN THE LIVES  
OF THE TWO PATRIOTS.

*Henry*

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WASHINGTON—"A great and celebrated name; a name, that keeps the name  
of this country respectable in every other on the Globe"

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BOSTON AND CAMBRIDGE:  
JAMES MUNROE AND COMPANY.  
1852.

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Entered according to Act of Congress, in the year 1851, by JAMES  
MONROE AND COMPANY, in the Clerk's office of the District Court  
of the District of Massachusetts.

Wright & Hasty, Printers,  
3 Water St., Boston.



WASHINGTON'S TRIUMPHAL JOURNEY  
TO THE CAPITOL.



## P R E F A C E.

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IN preparing this volume of Anecdotes and Incidents in the career of George Washington, the writer has consulted those records only, which may be relied on as truly authentic. A portion of the anecdotes have been chiefly gathered from the various journals and writings which Washington was accustomed to keep for his own private use. Throughout the whole work it has been our purpose to present a true picture of Washington's own mind, his relation to public and private life; and also to furnish to the young a high standard of moral excellence, and a safe guide to duty. History presents no higher example of integrity, courage and patriotism; nor the character of a public man whose prominent feature is its beautiful symmetry—whose basis are its sterling virtues. From the abundance of materials the writer has selected such facts and incidents as may serve to give a correct view of the character and habits of Washington; and such only as will best illustrate his public and private virtues,—his physical and mental powers,—his filial relations to an honored mother, and a devoted wife, whose lives are briefly noticed in the work,—and his connection with Lafayette. He has aimed to present the “American soldier” in

the light of a true Patriot, a wise Counselor, and a living Christian.

As our purpose is, not to present a continued history of the man so well known to the public, but to collect facts only in that history which may be instructive to young readers, we have therefore inserted those events, connected with the Revolution, which may answer the design of this work. We have avoided giving authority for every incident and anecdote, on account of the interruptions it would make in the progress of the narrative; but our readers may be assured of their unquestionable authority. As we have aimed to give the best exemplification of his virtues, and to present a true analysis of his character, in a familiar and anecdotal style, we have been under the necessity of omitting much historical matter connected with the public services of Washington in the cause of his country.

May the young men of our country profit by his example, and be stimulated to imitate those virtues which adorned the illustrious character of Washington.

N. HERVEY.

Dec. 20, 1851.

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THE  
MEMORY OF WASHINGTON.

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BIRTH AND CHARACTER.

GEORGE WASHINGTON was born in the parish of Washington, County of Westmoreland, and State of Virginia, February 22d, 1732. He was the youngest son of Augustine Washington and Mary Ball, his second wife. He descended from John Washington, a native of England, of a respectable family who emigrated to America about the year 1657, and settled on the banks of the Potomac at Pope's creek, where he married a daughter of the gentleman from whom that stream derives its name. The name and family of Washington are now extinct in the land of the Pilgrims. Washington being desirous of leaving some memorial to his relatives, caused inquiries to be made, and the result of the investigation was the conviction that none of the family existed. He stood alone in the moral atmosphere of his own glory and wisdom, and left no child to inherit his fame but the country which he faithfully served.

Washington was rather above the ordinary size. His tall and manly figure gave him a commanding appearance; and his robust frame and vigorous constitution, enabled him to endure hardships and sufferings under which others would have withered, and gone down to an early grave. The nature of his constitution, and consequently the preservation of his own health, demanded a large degree of manual exercise, to which he was accustomed in early years, as well as in all his subsequent life. The form of Washington presented a complete model of physical power and manly gracefulness.

His height was about five feet eleven, chest full, his limbs slender, but well shaped, and muscular. His head small, his eyes of a light gray color. Mr. Stewart, an eminent portrait painter, says, "that there are features in his face totally different from whatever he observed in that of any other human being. The eye sockets are larger than what he ever saw before, and the upper part of the nose broader. All his features were indicative of the strongest passions." Officers that served under his command during the war, say, that they never saw him smile during all the time they were with him. When in his sixty-fourth year, though a healthy man, he appeared much older. The various perplexities and hardships of life which he met with in his public capacities, very sensibly impaired his constitution, and gave him an aged appearance.

At the early age of ten years he was deprived of a father's care and instruction, but whose place was

admirably filled by a kind and judicious mother, to whom he became the object of earnest solicitude, and unwearied attention, and who constantly inculcated those high principles of religion and virtue, which formed the basis of a noble character, ever maintained and illustrated, in all the eventful periods and vicissitudes of his life. His education was confined to those branches of knowledge, which were strictly useful, and were mainly directed according to the judgment of his mother.

In 1743, by the marriage of his eldest brother, Lawrence, to a sister of George W. Fairfax, a member of the Council, he became acquainted with Lord Fairfax, who was proprietor of the Northern Neck of Virginia, and who offered Washington, when in his eighteenth year, the office of Surveyor in the western part of that territory. He accepted the offer, and commenced his investigations respecting unoccupied lands, and forming opinions of their value, which was of great service to him in after life, and which gave him advantages in adding to his private property.

The manners of Washington were rather reserved, though in private circles, and on public occasions, he showed his highest gratification in social conversation, and in the friendly intercourse of Society. One who was a companion in arms, speaks of him thus,—“ His person and whole deportment exhibited an unaffected and indescribable dignity, unmingled with haughtiness, of which all who approached him were sensible ; and the attachment

of those who possessed his friendship and enjoyed his intimacy was ardent, but always respectful. His temper was humane, benevolent and conciliatory, but he was sensitive to any thing apparently offensive, which experience had taught him to watch and correct."

Mrs. Adams describes the appearance of Washington when she first saw him in company with General Lee, on their arrival at Braintree; she says,\* "I was struck with General Washington. You had prepared me to entertain a favorable opinion of him, but I thought the half was not told me. Dignity, with ease and complacency, the gentleman and soldier, look agreeably blended in him. Modesty marks every line and feature of his face. Those lines of Dryden instantly occurred to me,

'Mark his majestic fabric! he's a Temple  
Sacred by birth, and built by hands divine.'"

In all his private and temporal matters he maintained an exact but liberal economy. His benefactions were liberal, but judicious; possessing an affectionate heart, and an hospitable temper, he "opened his hand wide unto the poor and the needy." Real distress came often kneeling at his door, and went away relieved, blessing the gift and the giver.

Washington possessed a well balanced mind, as was clearly developed in the many trying exigences

\* Letters of Mrs. Adams, Vol. I.

of his history. The prominent feature of his character was solid judgment, rather than dazzling genius. He was truly a devout man, a sincere believer in the Christian faith, and the Christian's hope. Firm in his integrity, wise in council, and devout before God, he prosecuted all his plans with that serenity and steadiness of heart which placed him above the frowns and smiles of man, and which caused his example to be oftener admired than imitated. His life corresponded with his principles. We see by his private letters, that in acting for his country, he often distrusted his own abilities for the high station he occupied ; promising no more than what his honest exertions and integrity of purpose could perform ; everywhere and on all occasions relying on a just providence for success ; so that he was enabled to carry with him, into the retirement of private life and honorable old age, the thought of having lived not for himself, but for the people.

We cannot read his history without perceiving that he was invested with superior virtues, and guided by a superior intelligence. It has been truly said, that "his virtues saved his country, and but for the unshaken confidence inspired by these, the hero of Saratoga might have superseded him in his command, and the surrender of Burgoyne produced the ruin of our cause."

There are scenes in which the character of a man is brought clearly to view ; when the virtues of that character shine with brilliant lustre amid

thick darkness and great trial. Such scenes marked the history of Washington, in which he developed the decisions of his great mind, and by his conduct drew forth the applause of a whole nation. When the wearied energies of his soldiers were fast dying away, and they retreating month after month, before the enemy,—when encamped in temporary huts, penniless, and despairing ; and when the torch of liberty glimmered only in the mountains of the Hudson, the voice of the hero was heard calling upon Congress to act, and to act promptly, knowing that the safety of the people depended upon measures adopted by Congress *then*, to relieve a suffering army.

When the death of Washington was announced in the House of Representatives, by a member, he said, “ that more than any other individual has he contributed to form this wide spreading empire, and to give to the Western world independence and freedom.” He was indeed the “ American Soldier,” possessing that courage which was far from being stimulated by a false ambition or pride of success. His object was freedom to a nation he loved, and this nerved him to encounter great dangers, and those more appalling than the glittering steel or the roar of artillery. All his movements as a military man were distinguished for wisdom, great caution, and matured judgment. In his private letters he says, “ The enemy must never be permitted to gain foothold on our shores,” a resolution ever prompting him to devise such measures and pursue such



plans, as would enable him to act to the best advantage, and to see no favorable opportunity pass without striking a decisive blow.

He has been termed, says one writer, "an American Fabius, but those who compare his actions with his means, will perceive as much of Marcellus as of Fabius in his character. Not relying upon those chances which sometimes give a favorable aspect to attempts apparently desperate, his conduct was regulated by calculations made upon the capacities of his army, and the real situation of his country."

It is not saying too much, when it is affirmed that the character of Washington is a safe model for the imitation of all classes of society. In his public and private capacity, he was equally admired when living, and his example is still cherished in the memory of a grateful people. The noble qualities of his character were all exemplified in his life, which renders the contemplation of his example instructive, in whatever light we may view it. In whatever situation in life we view this great man, we shall discover in him a firm reliance on God,—a rational and exalted piety. In scenes of great trial, when involved in almost hopeless difficulties, we see him depending on the aid of that Providence which governs the affairs of nations. Perceiving the true relation subsisting between the duties we owe to God, and those we are required to sustain here to each other, and to our fellow-men, he acted steadily and faithfully in the dis-

charge of all moral obligations. Acting on this principle, a true discharge of duty, from early life, enabled him to bring to a successful issue the great enterprise of freedom, and to secure the affections and esteem of an independent people.

When his earthly career was about closing—and during the short period of his illness, he arranged, with his usual serenity of mind, all the remaining affairs connected with his establishment at Mount Vernon, which required his personal attention. Conscious of his approaching dissolution, he gave every evidence of a calm and submissive heart to the Providence of God. With that equanimity of mind, for which his life was so uniformly distinguished, he said to his friend and Physician, Dr. Craik, who held his head in his lap at the bed-side, “doctor, I am dying, and have been dying for a long time, but I am not afraid to die.” A full account of his death and burial will be found on another page of this book.

The death of Washington summoned the nation to pay their tribute of respect to his memory and life. The news of his death spread like a cloud over the whole country—one general lamentation, “Washington is dead!” was heard in every town and city; till the whole land sympathizing with the event, mourned the loss of the Patriot, the Citizen and the Christian.

Public demonstrations of respect were decreed to his memory, and as his remains were borne in silent procession to the tomb at Mount Vernon, the

nation expressed their grief in silent sorrow and in solemn thought.

Immediately after the passage of resolutions, expressive of the sentiments of the people, a written message was received from the President, accompanying a letter from Mr. Sear, in which he said, "this will inform you that it had pleased divine Providence to remove from this life our excellent fellow citizen, George Washington, who, by the purity of his life and a long series of services to his country, is rendered illustrious through the world. It remains for an affectionate and grateful people, in whose hearts he can never die, to pay suitable honor to his memory."

The Senate addressed the President the following letter.

"This event, so distressing to all our fellow citizens, must be peculiarly heavy to you who have been long associated with him in *deeds of patriotism*. Permit us sir, to mingle our tears with yours. On this occasion it is manly to weep. To lose such a man, at such a crisis, is no common calamity to the world—our country mourns a father. The Almighty disposer of human events, has taken from us our greatest benefactor and ornament. It becomes us to submit with reverence, to Him who maketh darkness his pavilion."

"With patriotic pride we review the life of our Washington, and compare him with those of other countries, who have been preëminent in fame. Ancient and modern names are diminished before

him. The scene is closed, and we are no longer anxious lest misfortune should sully his glory : he has traveled on to the end of his journey, and carried with him an increasing weight of honor, he has deposited it safely where misfortune cannot tarnish it ; where malice cannot blast it. Favored of Heaven, he departed without exhibiting the weakness of humanity ; magnanimous in death, the darkness of the grave could not obscure his brightness. Such was the man whom we deplore. Thanks to God, his glory is consummated. Washington yet lives on earth in his spotless example—his spirit is in heaven. Let his countrymen consecrate the *memory* of the heroic general, the patriotic statesman, and the virtuous sage. Let them teach their children never to forget that the fruits of his labors and his example are their inheritance.”

To this address the President of the Senate replied with emotions of deep feeling, and in a manner which commanded the utmost attention, and the most profound silence. “ I have attended him,” he says, “ in his highest elevation and most prosperous felicity, with uniform admiration of his wisdom, moderation, and constancy. Among all our original associates in that memorable league of this continent in 1774, which first expressed the *sovereign will of a free nation in America*, he was the only one remaining in the general government. I feel myself alone, bereaved of my last brother ; yet I derive a strong consolation from the unanimous

disposition which appears in all ages and classes, to mingle their sorrows with mine on this common calamity with the world."

The character of this great man has been drawn by the ablest pens, and held up in both hemispheres, as a shining example to all generations. To him is conceded that personal courage and firmness of resolution, which remained unshaken, amidst appalling dangers and trying difficulties. His ambition to succeed, in securing a permanent freedom for his country, was so regulated by principles, and controlled by circumstances, that it is worthy of a place among the *virtues* which adorn his character.

The name of Washington is dear to every patriot—to every American. "His country is his monument, and its history his epitaph; so long as public and private worth is cherished, so long as true glory is honored, talents admired, or integrity appreciated in the world, so long shall the name of Washington be quoted as the great example of virtuous heroism and true patriotism."

With the lapse of time the events of false heroism fade away and are lost in oblivion, but the glory and fame of Washington will shine with increasing lustre and be remembered to the latest generation.

## THE MOTHER OF WASHINGTON.

THERE are no records left of the early life of this illustrious woman. She was born in 1706, in the colony of Virginia, and descended from a respectable family of English Colonists by the name of Ball. The character of this excellent lady evinces a well informed mind, and a naturally powerful intellect. Those habits of industry, economy, and usefulness, combined with superior moral qualities, developed in her later years, will give some clue to the character of her early education. She is described by those who knew her as a beautiful woman, of simple address, great decision, and uncommon strength of mind. When about fifteen years old, a young female friend by her side was struck dead by a flash of lightning, which much affected the nervous system of Mrs. Washington, and ever after caused her to fear the approach of a thunder shower.

In the ordinary duties of life she aimed to render others happy. She was punctual to her promise, obliging, and hospitable to her friends and neighbors, and "always received her visitors with a smiling welcome." They were never asked to stay but once—when they purposed to leave, she would aid their departure by every possible means

in her power. That beautiful simplicity which characterized Mrs. Washington was manifested by her on all occasions ; at home and abroad, in the private circle and in public assemblies. On one occasion, a ball was given at Fredericksburg in honor of her son George, when in the full tide of his military glory. His mother was present, and when the clock struck *nine*, she says to him with perfect simplicity, "Come, George, it is time to go home."

An old volume printed in the year 1685, entitled "Contemplations Moral and Divine, by Sir Mathew Hale, Chief Justice of the Court of King's Bench," bears evidence of its being a favorite book with Mrs. Washington—her name being written within in her own hand writing. Some portions of it appear to have been very much used. From this book she was accustomed to read daily lessons of piety and wisdom to her children. One chapter which appears to have been selected and marked for important lessons, is titled, "*The Great Audit.*" This book contains many valuable lessons of virtue and truth, many golden maxims and precepts, which lodged in a youthful mind, would greatly aid in the formation of a good character. She was the mother of two daughters and four sons. George was the eldest child, and born in the first home of her wedded life. Soon after his birth, the family removed "to an estate owned by Mr. Washington in Stafford county, Va., on the east side of the Rappahannoc River, opposite

Fredericksburg. The names of her six children were George, Betty, Samuel, John Augustine, Charles, and Mildred. The last died in his infancy.

In 1743, April 12th, Mr. Washington died, aged 49 years, leaving his widow and the children with limited pecuniary resources. Mr. Sparks states, however, that "each of his sons inherited from him a separate plantation. To the eldest, Lawrence, he bequeathed an estate near Hunting creek, afterwards Mount Vernon, which then consisted of twenty-five hundred acres; and also other lands and shares in iron works situated in Virginia and Maryland, which were very productive. The second son, had for his part an estate in Westmoreland. To George were left the lands and mansion where his father lived at the time of his decease, and each of the other sons an estate of six or seven hundred acres. Confiding in the prudence of the mother, he directed that the proceeds of all the property of her children should be at her disposal, till they should respectively come of age."

Mrs. Washington now had the exclusive direction and education of her children. And from much incidental testimony, it is evident that the children enjoyed much happiness under the paternal roof of a wise and kind mother. All testimony shows that she taught her children to follow the path of wisdom, virtue and truth.

We shall relate a few anecdotes illustrative of the character of Mary Washington.

Lawrence Washington was a companion of



George, and when visiting there at her residence, shared frequently in her kindness and hospitality. He says, "I was often there with George my playmate, schoolmate and companion. Of the mother, I was more afraid than of my own parents; she awed me in the midst of her kindness, for she was indeed truly kind; and even now when time has whitened my locks and I am the grandfather of the second generation, I could not behold that majestic woman without feelings it is impossible to describe."

Mrs. Washington maintained her right of private judgment, and always required a prompt obedience from those she employed in her affairs. On one occasion she reprov'd an agent in her employ, who relying upon his own judgment had disobeyed her orders, saying, "I command you! There is nothing left for you but to obey."

Mrs. Washington felt her dependence on God, and often, as she thought of our country's cause, would she raise her prayer to him, whom she believed would sustain the cause of Liberty. When after the long years of gloom and suffering which hung over our country, she being informed of the surrender of Cornwallis, raised her hands with profound reverence and gratitude towards heaven, and fervently exclaimed, "Thank God!—war will now be ended, and peace, independence, and happiness, bless our country."

In 1776, when Washington with his army made the successful passage across the Delaware, the news spread as on wings to every part of the

country. The intelligence was communicated to his mother, and numerous friends came to rejoice with her on so auspicious an event. She received the tidings with great joy, and expressed her gratitude to God for the bright prospects now dawning upon her native country. But in reference to the praises lavished upon her son, she remarked, that "George appeared to have deserved well of his country for such signal services," and added, "But my good sirs,—here is too much flattery!—still George will not forget the lessons I have taught him—he will not forget *himself*, though he is the subject of so much praise."

The arrival of Washington at Fredericksburg was hailed with universal joy by the inhabitants of the town. They made preparations to celebrate the occasion by a splendid ball. When Mrs. Washington received an invitation to attend, she replied, that "although her dancing days were *pretty well over*, she should feel happy in contributing to the general festivity." When she entered the Hall leaning on the arm of her son George, the assembly were silent as they both with quiet dignity and unaffected grace slowly advanced. The European officers present "regarded with astonishment the unadorned attire and simple graceful manners of the mother of Washington." Having by her presence honored the festive scene till the clock struck nine, she expressed the desire that the happiness of all might continue undiminished until the time of separation should arrive,

adding, that "it was time for old people to be at home." She retired as she entered, leaning on the arm of her son. This was the last occasion on which Washington united in the dance.

Having become reëstablished at Mount Vernon, it was the earnest desire of Washington to have his mother reside at his own home. But it was her wish, notwithstanding the entreaties of her children to remove to Mount Vernon, to maintain a separate residence by herself, and attend the management of its affairs. Thus in her own tranquil retreat, where those who knew her loved her, she remained, and continued to receive visits from her friends and children, though repeatedly urged by her children to spend the residue of life with them. She would invariably reply—"I thank you for your affectionate offers, but my wants are few in this life, and I feel perfectly competent to take care of myself." When her son-in-law, Col. Lewis, proposed to take the general superintendence of her affairs, she answered—"Do you, Fielding, keep my books in order, for your eyesight is better than mine, but leave the executive management to me."

When Marquis de Lafayette visited Fredericksburg for the purpose of bidding adieu to the mother of Washington, he repaired to her humble abode accompanied by one of her grandsons. As they came near the house, they observed an elderly lady with a plain straw bonnet on her head, working in the garden. "There is my grandmother," said the

young gentleman. "Ah, Marquis!" she exclaimed, "you see an old woman;—but come, I can make you welcome to my poor dwelling without the parade of changing my dress." In conversation with Mrs. Washington at this interview, Lafayette spoke of the General, his friend and associate, with a warm heart, and lavished upon him the praise ever due to his name. Mrs. Washington replied, "*I am not surprised at what George has done, for he was always a good boy.*"\*

The history of this excellent woman affords a bright example of wisdom and goodness. During the later part of her life, she was accustomed to repair daily to a secluded spot near her dwelling, formed by overhanging rocks and trees; and there alone in thought and meditation she sought in prayer to God that appropriate preparation for death, which she was admonished by advanced age must soon come.

Mrs. Washington required of her children that respect which is ever due to an honored parent. That respect was ever paid to her by them. It is stated by Mr. Custis, the Grandson of Martha Washington, that "to the last moments of his venerable parent, he yielded to her will the most implicit obedience, and felt for her person and character the highest respect and the most enthusiastic attachment."

Mrs. Washington retained possession of her

\* Memoirs of Mary Washington.

faculties, unimpaired to the last. The last three years of her life, her physical frame was much wasted by a distressing malady, (cancer in the breast) with which she was long afflicted. After a long life of usefulness, and having been a widow forty-six years, she calmly closed her earthly career, August 25th, 1789, aged 83.

The following extract from the pen of Mr. Sparks, is a just tribute to the character of the mother of Washington, on whom devolved the responsibility of five young children, the eldest being but eleven years old at the decease of her husband.

“In these important duties, Mrs. Washington acquitted herself with great fidelity to her trust, and with entire success. Her good sense, assiduity, tenderness, and vigilance overcome every obstacle; and as the richest reward of a mother’s solicitude and toil, she had the happiness to see all her children come forward with a fair promise into life, filling the sphere allotted them in a manner equally honorable to themselves, and to the parent who had been the only guide of their principles, conduct, and habits. She lived to witness the noble career of her eldest son, till by his own rare merits he was raised to the head of a nation, and applauded and revered by the whole world. It has been said that there never was a great man, the elements of whose greatness might not be traced to the original characteristics or early influence of his mother. If this be true, how much do mankind owe to the mother of Washington.”

It is well known that the remains of Mrs. Washington were deposited in the burial place of Fredericksburg, in Virginia, where she resided till the time of her death. The spot remained for a long time undistinguished by any monumental stone. But according to history, the corner-stone of a beautiful monument was laid with appropriate services, on the 7th of May, 1833. The form is pyramidal, and the height of the obelisk forty-five feet. The shaft is adorned by a colossal bust of Washington, and surmounted by the American Eagle, sustaining a civic crown above the hero's head; and with this inscription—

M A R Y ,

T H E M O T H E R O F

W A S H I N G T O N .

The address was delivered by General Jackson, then President of the United States, who repaired to Fredericksburg, attended by several members of the National Cabinet, and uniting with the people assembled on the occasion, celebrated the event with solemn and deeply interesting services. We present the following extract of the address.

“In the grave before us lie the remains of his mother. Long has it been unmarked by any monumental tablet, but not unhonored. You have undertaken the pious duty of erecting a column to her name, and of inscribing upon it the simple but

affecting words, ‘Mary, the Mother of Washington.’ No eulogy could be higher, and it appeals to the heart of every American. . . . . The mother and son are beyond the reach of human applause ; but the bright example of paternal and filial excellence, which their conduct furnishes, cannot but produce the most salutary effects upon our countrymen. Let their example be before us from the first lesson which is taught the child, till the mother’s duties yield to the course of preparation and action which nature prescribes for him.” . . . .

“Fellow citizens, at your request, and in your name, I now deposit this plate in the spot destined for it, and when the American Pilgrim shall in after ages, come up to this high and holy place, and lay his hand upon this sacred column, may he recall the virtues of her who sleeps beneath, and depart with his affections purified, and his piety strengthened, while he invokes blessings upon the mother of Washington.”

#### WASHINGTON’S CARE FOR HIS MOTHER.

Previous to Washington’s departure from his native state, to take command of the troops at Cambridge, he gave considerable attention to his mother’s comfort. He caused her to be removed from her country residence to Fredericksburg. By this change she was brought in nearer proximity to her relatives and friends, and more secure from dan-

gers than any precaution could have rendered her situation in the country. This arrangement was agreeable to Mrs. Washington, as she testified to him, when she gave him her parting blessing on his leaving for Cambridge. This change in her situation did not deprive her of visiting the country residence; though long past the meridian of life, she continued her plans of self-support and usefulness. It was her almost daily custom to visit her little farm, which lay in the vicinity of the town, in an old-fashioned open chaise; and while there, to drive about the fields, giving directions and personally superintending all the affairs.

#### THE MEETING OF PARENT AND CHILD.

When the American Army returned from Yorktown, Washington repaired immediately to Fredericksburg, attended by a splendid suite, composed of American and European officers, who had been his companions in toils and suffering during seven years. As soon as Washington had dismounted, he sent a messenger to inform his mother of his arrival, with a request when it would be her pleasure to receive him. On the return of the messenger he repaired, unaccompanied and on foot, to the dwelling of his mother, where he found her alone, occupied with her ordinary domestic duties. She met him on the threshold with a cordial embrace, her face beaming with unmingled pleasure.



She welcomed his return with a mother's love. Seeing the evidences of care and responsibilities on his noble countenance, she immediately inquired for his health, then turning the conversation to scenes familiar to each of them, they spent some time in calling to remembrance mutual friends and former times. It is said, however, that she made not a simple allusion to the peerless fame of her son's triumphant career.

#### RESPECT TO HIS MOTHER.

There are many proofs in the published correspondence of Washington, of the attention and respect which he ever paid to his mother. He assigns his absence, while on a visit to her, a reason for not previously replying to a letter from the Secretary of Congress; and in a letter subsequent to this time, to Major General Knox, he assigns the same reason for a similar delay. When his mother was ill, he felt that she claimed his undivided attention, and without reserve presented her claims as superior to any public obligation. In a letter written towards the close of the year 1778, he makes allusions to a long visit with his mother under the paternal roof; and from his occasional letters it is evident that he was not unmindful of her wants during his absence, and while engaged in his country's service.

## THE WIFE OF WASHINGTON.

“ Thanks for the picture of thy daily life,  
Thy bright example, Daughter, Mother, Wife.”

Our readers will find in this volume several anecdotes illustrating the character and virtues of the wife of Washington. We therefore purpose, in a brief sketch of this excellent lady, to give a few outlines only of her history, serving to show, that she was worthy to be the wedded companion of the illustrious chief. In following her history through the quiet valley of domestic life, and in all her public relations to Washington, during a long and eventful war, we shall see developed the noblest traits in the character of woman. She was a fair representative of an ancient people, possessing the qualities of a noble mind, agreeable and lovely in her manners and person, she became the object of admiration and praise to all who knew her, and won the early esteem and devoted affection of Washington.

She was born in May, 1732, in the County of New Kent, where she received the name of Martha Dandridge. At the age of seventeen, she united in marriage with Colonel Daniel P. Custis, and settled on his plantation in her native land. Her residence

was known as the "*White House*," and was the abode of genuine hospitality. In early life she was left a widow, with three children, together with the responsible trust of directing in all the pecuniary interests which her kind husband left to her control. It is said that "she managed with great ability the extensive landed and pecuniary concerns of the estate, making loans on mortgages, of money, and through her students, and agents, conducting the sales on exportation of the crops to the best possible advantage."

The decease of Colonel Custis was preceded a short time by the death of a son, their eldest child. After this event Mr. Custis sank prematurely into the grave, before he had scarcely attained the prime of manhood. An incident illustrating a prominent trait in his character is said to have occurred just before his death. We state it as related by an immediate descendant: "When on his death bed, he sent for a tenant, to whom in settling an account, he was due one shilling. The tenant begged that the Colonel who had ever been kind to his tenantry, would not trouble himself at all about such a trifle, as he, the tenant, had forgotten it long ago." But I have not, rejoined Mr. Custis, and bidding the creditor take up the coin which had been purposely placed on his pillow, exclaimed, "Now my accounts are all closed with this world," and soon after breathed his last.

In 1759, January 6th, Mrs. Custis was married to Colonel George Washington. She possessed a

large property, upwards of a hundred thousand dollars. The guardianship of her children, a son six, and a daughter four years old, she committed to the care of her husband, together with her property. They were united in marriage at the White House, and soon after removed to Mount Vernon, which is situated on the south bank of the Potomac, nine miles below Alexandria, and fifteen miles from Washington. This choice spot became their home for life,—and here is seen this day, the resting place of their remains.

At the new home Mrs. Washington attended to all her household affairs. Carefully educated her children with reference to their usefulness in life. These duties she discharged with the utmost constancy and fidelity, while her husband, interested in the welfare of her children, continued to discharge his duty to them until they no longer required his care.

Mrs. Washington frequently accompanied her husband in his journeys, and official visits at Williamsburg, which was the scene of her early introduction into society, and the place of many pleasant associations in her later years.

In 1770, she was called to part with a beloved daughter, one she had fondly cherished, and of whom it is said, that “she was one of the brightest ornaments of Mount Vernon.” But in the spirit of true resignation to the providence of God, she bore this deep affliction with submission, and unshaken confidence in Him, “who doeth all things well.”

In such scenes of life, as well as in those acts of kindness to the suffering and the poor, to whom she was frequently a timely blessing, she developed the practical principles of religion. It is said that "time wears out the trace of deepest sorrow," but it was a long period before the mourning spirit of this kind mother assumed its wonted cheerfulness. In the following year she stood at the bed side of her eldest son, John Custis, the only surviving child, and there with the same calm and submissive trust in God, closed his eyes in death. Taking to her own home the widowed daughter-in-law with her four little children, she provided them with all the comforts of life, and gave them the unwearied attention of a mother.

It is known that Mrs. Washington, for the sake of being with her husband as much as possible during the war, endured the privations of many personal comforts, and shared with him extensively in the hardships of a campaign life. We have inserted in another part of this volume several incidents connected with this part of her history, and which serve to illustrate the admirable character of this lady.

While Washington was chief magistrate of this country for eight years, she presided at the mansion with the same ease and simplicity of manners which distinguished her former life in the more private retirement of home, at Mount Vernon.

She was fond of domestic life, and derived much happiness from the congenial pursuits of that

pleasant, and quiet retreat. Her own feelings are best expressed in a letter, written to Mrs. Warren, soon after her arrival at the seat of government,—which is as follows :—

“ It is owing to the kindness of our numerous friends in all quarters, that my new, and unwished for situation, is not indeed a burden to me. When I was much younger, I should probably have enjoyed the innocent gayeties of life as much as most persons of my age, but I had long since placed all the prospects of my future worldly happiness in the still enjoyments of the fireside at Mount Vernon.

“ I little thought when the war was finished, that any circumstances could possibly happen which would call the General into public life again. I had anticipated that from that moment we should be suffered to grow old together in solitude and tranquillity. That was the first and dearest wish of my heart.

“ The consciousness of having attempted to do all the good in his power, and the pleasure of finding his fellow citizens so well satisfied with the disinterestedness of his conduct, will doubtless be of some compensation for the great sacrifices which I know he has made.

“ With respect to myself, I sometimes think the arrangement is not quite as it ought to have been, that I who had much rather be at home, should occupy a place, with which a great many younger and gayer women would be extremely pleased. I do not say this because I feel dissatisfied with my

present station, for every body and every thing conspire to make me as contented as possible in it ; yet I have learned too much of the vanity of human affairs to expect felicity from the scenes of public life."

The following passage from Mrs. Warren's reply, is expressive of the universal feelings of the large circle of friends of Mrs. Washington.

" Your observation may be true, that many younger and gayer ladies consider your situation as enviable ; yet I know not one, who by general consent, would be more likely to obtain the suffrages of the sex, even were they to canvass at election, for this elevated station, than the lady who now holds the first rank in the United States."

Mrs. Washington passed the first year of the Presidency of her husband at New York, where the first organization of the Federal government occurred in April, 1789. The second year was passed in Philadelphia, which was then the seat of General Government. The remaining six years at the present National Capitol, which location was selected by Washington, to whom the duty was formally delegated by the people.

It was here that the wife of Washington received all that respect and compliment justly due to her character. Here she presided at the table of gathered guests, with the same accustomed ease which gave a charm to the hospitalities of her delightful home at Mount Vernon. In conversation she was agreeable and instructive. It is said that " foreign

Ambassadors, and strangers, frequently attempted to draw her into a discussion of political topics ; but it was her invariable practice to waive all discourse of this nature." Her political views, however, were well understood ; nor did she avoid expressing them openly and frankly whenever circumstances called for them. In 1780, an address was published in the Philadelphia newspapers, entitled, " The Sentiments of American Women," which was attributed to her, and which was publicly read in all the churches in Virginia.

At first, during the term of Washington's presidency, there were no established rules for the reception of visitors. The consequence was, that visitors called at all times of day, from morning till night. This constant calling of people subjected the President and his family to much inconvenience. It was accordingly arranged that he should receive visitors on Tuesdays only, from three to four o'clock ; while Mrs. Washington in like manner, received visitors on Fridays, from three to five o'clock,—the President being always present at her levees. They accepted no invitations to dine on the Sabbath, and received no company on those days. They sacredly regarded the Sabbath, attended church regularly in the morning, and spent the evening in the circle of the family with such intimate friends as occasionally called.

When Washington retired from public administration to the tranquillity of private life, many persons came to bid them farewell, and to give parting



okens of affection. The following anecdote is related of Mrs. Washington :—

“ As the honored chief was presenting to all his principal officers some token of regard, on his leaving the seat of Government, Mrs. Oliver Walcott, the wife of one of these gentlemen, and the particular friend and correspondent of Miss Custis, called to take leave. Mrs. Washington asked if she did not wish a memorial of the General? “ Yes,” replied Mrs. Walcott, “ I should like a lock of his hair.” Mrs. Washington, instantly took her scissors, and with a happy smile, cut a large lock from his head, and added to it one from her own, and presented them to her fair friend.”

Having retired from the responsible and engrossing duties of public life to the venerable mansion at Mount Vernon, Mrs. Washington entered with zeal into all the improvements proposed by her companion, for the comfort and beauty of their favorite home.

After spending two years together in the pleasant mutual relations of life, Washington was suddenly called from earth to his final rest. She who had stood by his side in scenes of danger, trial and suffering, was now faithful to the last. It is said she was not for a moment absent from her husband's chamber during the brief and severe illness which terminated his life. She kneeled by his bedside, and bowed her head upon the sacred records of Divine promises by which she was sustained in this hour of deep affliction. And as her be-

loved partner lay on the dying bed calmly waiting the change which was rapidly approaching, Mrs. Washington derived no small share of consolation in the thought, that he who was now to leave her alone, had drank at the same "fountain of living waters" from which she had derived streams of heavenly peace.

She was well prepared to meet this painful and truly afflicting providence with calm submission to the will of Him, in whom she ever trusted with unshaken faith, and a steadfast heart.

"It is recorded of this devout Christian," says Miss Conkling, in her excellent memoir, "that never during her life, whether in prosperity or adversity, did she omit that daily self communion, and self examination, and those private devotional exercises which would best prepare her for the self control and self-denial, by which she was for more than half a century so eminently distinguished. It was her habit to return to her own apartment every morning after breakfast, there to devote an hour to solitary prayer and meditation."

Mrs. Washington, now bereft of her earthly companion, and guide, yielded the remains of the chief to the request of the nation, on condition that at her own decease, her remains should accompany those of her husband to the capitol. And when his earthly relics were deposited in the Family Tomb at Mount Vernon, she mingled her tears of grief with a nation in mourning.

She was now in her sixty-ninth year, and though

deprived of her counselor and friend, yet she gave her unwearied attention to the duties and cares of life, and discharged all business connected with her household affairs, with the same order and diligence which marked her whole life. Two years after the decease of Washington, the "silver chord was loosed,"—the fading cheek had for a time betrayed to her many friends her approaching dissolution. And when passing under a severe illness which terminated her long and useful life, a short time before she expired, she called to her bed-side the various members of her family, and addressed, particularly her grandchildren, for whom she felt a deep solicitude, in impressive words of advice, and then committing them to the care of our heavenly Father, she bade them all farewell, and expired; leaving the testimony in her life, as well as in her death, of the virtue of "pure and undefiled religion before God." Thus died Martha Washington, in the seventy-first year of her age, and in the year 1801, May 22d. Her remains were enclosed in a leaden coffin, and deposited by the side of those of Washington, in the Family Tomb.

In the camp, she shone with the lustre of the true woman. She gave hope and confidence to the desponding, sought out the afflicted, honored and dignified every station she occupied, and peacefully closed a memorable life.

## INCIDENTS AND ANECDOTES.

## WASHINGTON'S BIRTHPLACE.

THE following sketch of Washington's birthplace was derived by Mr. Paulding from an aged neighbor and cotemporary of this great man; and who remembers to have heard that, at the time of his birth, he was very large.

The house in which he was born, stood about half a mile from the junction of Pope's Creek with the Potomac, and was either burned or pulled down long previous to the Revolution. A few scanty relics alone remain to mark the spot which will be remembered with deep interest. A clump of old decayed fig trees, probably coeval with the mansion, yet exists; a number of vines, shrubs and flowers, still reproduce themselves every year. A stone placed there by Mr. George W. Custis, bears this simple inscription:—

*“ Here on the 22d of February, (O. S.) 1732,  
George Washington was born.”*

The place is connected with interesting associations, and noted for its natural beauties. It com-

mands a view of the Maryland shore of the Potomac, a majestic river rolling on for many miles towards Chesapeake Bay. The house in which he was born, is described as a low pitched, single storied frame building, with four rooms on the first floor, and a large chimney at each end of the outside. Such houses are occasionally seen in the old settlements of Virginia.

#### EARLY EDUCATION.

At the age of ten years Washington was deprived of his father, when he was left to the care of his mother, who survived a long time, and lived to see her favorite child, hailed by a grateful people, as their deliverer. She continued to impress those principles of religion and virtue on his tender mind, which constituted the true basis of a character that was maintained through all the scenes of an eventful life. The virtues of truth, justice, and liberality, were early inculcated both by precepts, by examples and illustrations. These principles took root in a rich soil, and sprang up in time to a glorious maturity. His education was limited to those subjects, in which alone the sons of gentlemen, of moderate fortune were, at that time generally instructed. It was confined to useful knowledge, but not extended to foreign languages.

He left school, for the last time, about five years after the death of his father. A large portion of the youth of the colonies, with any claims to distinction, were sent from home to acquire an education. The people of that period were under the impression that knowledge and learning could never be naturalized in this country. But although the means for acquiring knowledge were not so extensive in that age, as in the present, yet Washington exhibited a genius in his after life, which shows that he made the best of his early advantages. And when called to the service of his country, he manifested those original talents which render him a model for our youth. He availed himself of every opening resource for acquiring that knowledge, which prepared him for the performance of those duties that were so intimately connected with the destinies of his country.

#### HIS FIRST SCHOOLMASTER.

At an early age George was sent down to Westmoreland to his half brother Augustus, where he attended the school of a Mr. Williams, an excellent teacher. Previous to his removal from his native place, he had received his first rudiments at a school kept by a man of the name of Hobby, a tenant of his father, who, it is stated, officiated as sexton to the parish of Washington. The same authority says that, Hobby lived to see his illustri-

ous pupil riding on the full tide of his glory, and was wont to boast that, "he had laid the foundation of his greatness." Wealthy persons who wished a liberal education for their sons, were obliged to send them to the mother country; but as a general thing, the planters were satisfied with the plain elementary education for their sons. Often a man of superior qualifications would settle down in Virginia, as a schoolmaster; but the majority of schoolmasters taught nothing more than the common branches of an English education.

#### ATHLETIC EXERCISES.

Washington was not born rich. His father's property was large, but was divided among several children. His own fortune was the result of his own exertions. From the time of his leaving school in Westmoreland, until old enough to engage in the active business of life, he resided either with his mother at the plantation on the Rappahannock, or with his half brother, Lawrence Washington, at Mount Vernon. Here he spent his leisure hours in athletic exercises,—especially in running, wrestling and riding, in all of which he greatly excelled. Such was his grace and dignity in riding horseback, that during his whole life he was considered the finest rider in Virginia, where this exercise was considered a universal accomplish-

ment. As a boy, he was exceedingly fond of such athletic exercises as leaping, wrestling, throwing the hammer, and swimming.

#### INFLUENCE WITH HIS SCHOOLMATES.

George Washington maintained a standing among his school-fellows which he was destined to occupy among men. He acquired among them the reputation for telling the truth; hence in all disputed points among the school boys, he was called upon to decide the case, and when he gave his decision, it was generally received with satisfaction. He was much beloved and respected by all his mates, and it is said, that the scholars parted from him with tears. He despised a quarrel, and always used his influence to prevent any fighting among the boys. It is said that he never received either insult or injury from his young associates. It is easy to see that the principles which Washington cherished in youth, in regard to sincerity and truth, were prominent in all his subsequent history. He passed through life with a reputation unstained by a single imputation of falsehood, deception, or crime.

#### GEORGE AND THE FAVORITE COLT.

The following anecdote, derived from an authentic source, illustrates the principles by which Wash-



ington was influenced, and which he had been taught by his mother.

She had purchased a pair of beautiful gray horses, and was accustomed to turn them to pasture in a meadow in front of the house, from whence she could see them while sitting at the window. At one time she owned a favorite young colt, which had never been broken to the saddle, and which no one was permitted to ride. One day, while several young lads were at the house on a visit, they proposed after dinner to mount the colt and make the circuit of the pasture. They attempted to mount, but were defeated. Washington, however, succeeded, and gave the favorite such a race, that he at length fell under his rider. He immediately went and told his mother what he had done,—she said to him, “I forgive you George, because you have the courage to tell the truth.”

#### MILITARY EXERCISES.

A certain Adjutant Muse, of the county of Westmoreland, and who accompanied Lawrence Washington in the expedition against Carthagena, instructed George in the manual exercise, in which he acquired great dexterity. He borrowed of him a number of treatises on the art of war, by the aid of which he derived much knowledge of the theory of military tactics, and became an expert fencer, under the tuition of Monsieur Van Braam, who was

afterwards his interpreter in his relations with the French on the Ohio. His decided military propensities brought him into early notice by the government. As the foundation of future action is laid in the early habits of youth, we may infer that Washington, by a course of mental and moral culture, together with the habit of his athletic exercises, was preparing himself to accomplish the work, and endure the toils and hardships to which he was subjected in the Revolutionary War. His military propensity early developed itself in the interest which he took in forming his school-fellows in companies, making them parade like soldiers, attack imaginary forts, and fight mimic battles.

#### JUVENILE COPY BOOKS.

A knowledge of Washington's character and habits when a boy, is derived from fragments of his juvenile copy books, and manuscripts, which have been preserved. They are all written in a neat and careful hand, with great attention to method and arrangement; and contain exercises in arithmetic, practical geometry, especially land surveying. And the diagrams which are drawn to illustrate the geometrical exercises, are distinguished for their accuracy and beauty. The first of the manuscripts is a folio one, entitled, "forms of writing," containing copies of bills of exchange,

bonds, indentures, bills of sale, land warrants, leases, deeds, and wills, written out with care. These forms of writing are followed by quotations in verse, more remarkable for the sentiments they express, than for their practical merit. These quotations are followed by "*The Rules of civility, and decent behavior in company, and conversation.*" There are one hundred and ten rules, and they appear to have been copied entire out of one book, or collected out of several. The following are a specimen:—

Rule 2. In the presence of others, sing not to yourself with a humming noise, nor drum with your fingers or feet.

Rule 12. Let your discourse with men of business be short and comprehensive.

Rule 29. Utter not base and frivolous things amongst grave and learned men, nor very difficult questions on subjects amongst the ignorant, nor things hard to be believed.

Rule 40. Think before you speak; pronounce not imperfectly, nor bring out your words too harshly, but orderly and distinctly.

Rule 57. Labor to keep alive in your breast that little spark of celestial fire called conscience.

The methodical habits which were so early manifested in these juvenile copy books, were Washington's characteristics through life.

## SURVEYING EXPEDITION.

At sixteen years of age, Washington was engaged by Lord Fairfax in practical surveying, making a tour among the Alleghany mountains, which he commenced in March, 1748; the hardships and privations of which, are described in a journal written by him at the time. In this manuscript of a rough diary are found some letters. The following has reference to his adventures:—

*Dear Richard,*—Yours gave me pleasure, as I received it among barbarians, and an uncouth set of people. Since you received my letter of October last, I have not slept above three or four nights in a bed; but, after walking a great deal all the day, I have lain down before the fire upon a little hay, straw fodder, or a bear skin, which ever was to be had; with men, wife and children, like dogs and cats; and happy is he who gets the berth nearest the fire. The coldness of the weather will not allow of my making a long stay, as the lodging is rather too cold for the time of year. I have never had my clothes off, but have lain and slept in them, except the few nights I have been in Fredericktown.”

Another letter to the same, containing an allusion to early affection, is as follows:—

“ *Dear Robin*,—As it is the greatest mark of affection and esteem which absent friends can show each other to write, and often communicate their thoughts, I shall endeavor from time to time to acquaint you with my situation, and employments in life. And I could wish you would take half the pains to send me a letter by any opportunity, as you may be well assured of its meeting with a welcome reception. My place at present is at Lord Fairfax’s, where I might, were I disengaged, pass my time very pleasantly, as there is a very agreeable young lady in the house, Colonel George Fairfax’s wife’s sister. But that only adds fuel to the fire, as being often, and unavoidably in her company, revives my former passion for your *Lowland Beauty* ;\* whereas, were I to live more retired from young ladies, I might in some measure alleviate my sorrow, by burying that chaste and troublesome passion in oblivion; and I am very well assured that this will be the only antidote or remedy.”

#### A MILITARY PURPOSE.

At the age of fourteen years Washington began to form plans for himself. He had actually taken preliminary steps towards entering the English Navy. A midshipman’s warrant was obtained for

\* The name of this troublesome *Lowland Beauty*, Washington’s first love, is unknown.

him, but his mother disapproving his design, caused him to relinquish his purpose. Mr. Sparks relates the details of this incident as follows:—

#### A MILITARY PURPOSE ABANDONED.

“ Washington’s eldest brother Lawrence had been an officer in the late war, and served at the siege of Carthagera, and in the West Indies. Being a well informed, and accomplished gentleman, he had acquired the esteem and confidence of General Wentworth, and Admiral Vernon, the commanders of the expedition, with whom he afterwards kept up a friendly correspondence. Having observed the military turn of his young brother, and looking upon the British navy as the most direct road to distinction in that line, he obtained for George a midshipman’s warrant, in the year 1746, when he was fourteen years old. This step was taken with an authority to which nature gave a claim.

“ At this critical juncture, Mr. Jackson, a friend of the family, wrote to Lawrence Washington as follows: ‘ I am afraid Mrs. Washington will not keep up her first resolution. She seems to dislike George’s going to sea, and says, several persons have told her it was a bad scheme. She offers several trifling objections, such as fond unthinking mothers habitually suggest; and I find that one word against his going has more weight than ten in it.’ She persisted in opposing the plan, and it

was given up. Nor ought that decision to be ascribed to obstinacy, or maternal weakness. It was her eldest son, whose character and manners must already have exhibited a promise, full of solace and hope to a widowed mother, on whom alone devolved the charge of four young children. To see him separated from her at so tender an age, exposed to the perils of accident, and the world's rough usage, without a parent's voice to counsel, or a parent's hand to guide, and to enter on a theatre of action, which would forever remove him from her presence, was a trial of her fortitude and sense of duty, which she could not be expected to hazard without reluctance and concern."\*

Washington must certainly have cherished a great regard for his mother, or he would not have ordered his baggage to be returned home, which was already put on board the vessel, destined to convey him to his new vocation, as a midshipman; and entirely abandon his cherished purpose to take part in the war in which Great Britain was then engaged.

George remained at school, and some other boy secured the midshipman's berth.

#### WASHINGTON'S ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

In 1745, Washington then a young man of twenty-two, was stationed with his regiment at

\* Spark's Washington, Vol. I., p. 10.

Alexandria. At this time an election of public officers took place, and the contest between the candidates became severe and exciting. Mr. Payne and Washington were disputing together on the question, when the latter became excited, and said something, which so offended Payne, that he knocked him down. Instead of flying into a passion, and sending him a challenge to fight a duel, as was customary in those times, Washington, upon mature reflection, finding that he had been the aggressor, resolved to ask pardon of Mr. Payne the next day. On meeting Mr. Payne the day following, he extended his hand in a friendly manner, and addressed him thus, "Mr. Payne, to err is nature, to rectify error is glory. I find I was wrong yesterday, but I wish to be right to-day. You have had some satisfaction ; and if you think that was sufficient, here's my hand ; let us be friends." They were ever afterwards friends to each other.



## INCIDENTS IN WASHINGTON'S MILITARY LIFE.

### MISSION TO THE FRENCH.

WHEN France was beginning to develop the plan of connecting her extensive dominions in America, by uniting Canada with Louisiana, the troops of that nation had taken a tract of country claimed by Virginia ; and had commenced a line of posts to be extended from the Lakes to the Ohio. The attention of the Lieutenant Governor of that Province was directed to the supposed encroachments ; and he deemed it his duty to demand in the name of the king, that they should be suspended. The Envoy would be under the necessity of passing through an extensive and almost unexplored wilderness, intersected with rugged mountains, and many rivers, and inhabited by savages, who were either hostile to the English, or of doubtful attachment. Dangers and fatigues prevented others from undertaking the mission. Washington engaged in it with alacrity. On receiving his commission, he left Williamsburg, and arrived on the 14th of November, at Wells Creek, the extreme frontier settlement of the English, where guides were engaged to conduct him over the Alleghany

mountains. After encountering the impediments, occasioned by the snow and high waters, he reached the mouth of Turtle Creek, where he was informed that the French General was dead, and the greater part of the army had retired into winter quarters. Pursuing his route, and examining the country with a military eye, he selected the place where Fort Du Quesne was afterwards erected by the French, for his quarters. After spending a few days with the Indians in that neighborhood, and procuring some of the chiefs to accompany him, he ascended the Alleghany river, till he met the commanding officer on the Ohio, to whom he delivered the letter of Mr. Dinwiddie, and from whom he received an answer, with which he returned to Williamsburg. The exertions of Washington on this mission, and the judgment which he displayed with the Indians, raised him in the public estimation, and opened to him that public career which immortalized his name.

#### A NEW COMMISSION.

When Washington was promoted to the office of Lieutenant Colonel, he expressed with unaffected modesty his inadequacy to the office which then placed him commander of the regiment of three hundred men, which was raised for the purpose of maintaining the right asserted by the British crown. He says in a letter written on the occasion

to Colonel R. Corbin, "The command of the whole forces is what I neither look for, expect, or deserve; for I must be impartial enough to confess it is a charge too great for my youth and inexperience to be entrusted with. Knowing this, I have too sincere a love for my country, to undertake that which may tend to the prejudice of it. But if I could entertain hopes that you thought me worthy of the post, and would favor me so far as to mention it at the appointment of officers, I could not but entertain a true sense of the kindness." The commission was transmitted to him in a letter by Mr. Corbin, as follows:—

"*Dear George*,—I inclose you your commission. God prosper you with it."

#### A SKILLFUL MOVEMENT.

Soon after Washington's arrival with two companies at the Great Meadows in the Alleghany Mountains, he was visited by some friendly Indians, who informed him of the French movements, in erecting a fort on the south eastern branch of the Ohio; from which place a detachment was then on its march towards his camp. Several circumstances showed that this party was approaching with hostile views,—one was that the party had encamped for the night in a place as if to ensure concealment. Washington entertaining no doubt of their designs, resolved to anticipate them. The

Indians serving him as guides, he proceeded through a dark and rainy night to the French encampment, which he completely surrounded. At daybreak his troops fired, and rushed upon the party which immediately surrendered. One man only escaped capture, and only the commanding officer, M. Joumonville, was killed, twenty-two were taken prisoners. By this skillful act on the part of Washington, many lives were saved. This event occurred May 28th, 1754.

#### LEAVING THE FIELD.

By the orders of Governor Dinwiddie, injustice was carried so far, as to divest the general and field officers of the provincial troops, of all ranks, when serving with the general and field officers of the British. This act was nobly met by Washington, in retiring from the station assigned him. He resigned his commission of Lieutenant Colonel, declaring his willingness to serve his country when it did not carry with it the sacrifice of his honor. His eldest brother, who had lately died, left him a considerable estate on the Potomac, which was named, in compliment to the admiral who commanded the fleet engaged in the expedition against Carthagera, *Mount Vernon*. To this spot Washington withdrew, resolving to devote his future attention to the avocations of private life. The resolution was not long maintained.

## WASHINGTON'S DELICACY.

When Washington had closed his career in the French and Indian war, and had become a member of the house of burgesses, Mr. Robinson was directed, by a vote of the house, to return thanks to that gentleman, on behalf of the Colony, for the distinguished military services which he had rendered to his country. In obedience to this order, Mr. Robinson following his own generous and grateful heart, discharged the duty with great dignity, but with such warmth of coloring, and strength of impression, as entirely confounded the young hero. He rose to express his acknowledgments for the honor, but such was his trepidation and confusion, that he could not give distinct utterance to his words. He blushed, stammered, and trembled for a moment, when the speaker relieved him with an address, accompanied with a smile,—“ Sit down Mr. Washington, your modesty is equal to your valor, and that surpasses the power of any language that I possess.”

## OLD JEREMY.

After the expulsion of the French from the Ohio, until the commencement of the troubles preceding the Revolution, Washington spent his time in rural occupations. He also devoted his morning hours to reading and private duties. For this pur-

pose he occupied a private room, where no one was permitted to interrupt him. Some curiosity prevailed among the servants of his house to know what could be his employment in that private room. They at last succeeded in persuading Old Jeremy, a faithful servant of Washington's to contrive some plan, by which he might excuse himself, for entering the room when his master was there. He at last concluded to take his boots into the room. With this apology, Jeremy went softly towards the door with the boots in hand, and opening the door very silently, entered the room; when Washington, who was then reading, raised his eyes from his book, and getting quietly up from his chair,—“I tell you,” said Jeremy, “I go out of de room faster dan I come in.”

#### SYMPATHY.

At twenty-four years of age, when Washington was endeavoring to keep back the encroachments of the Indians, he addressed the Governor, saying, “You see to what unhappy straits the distracted inhabitants, and myself are reduced. The supplicating tears of the women, and moving petitions of the men, melt me into such deadly sorrow, that I solemnly declare, if I know my own mind, I could offer *myself a willing sacrifice* to the butchering enemy, provided that would contribute to the people's ease.”

## DISINTERESTEDNESS.

When the British ascended the Potomac, in 1781, to destroy the property of the inhabitants, a vessel came up to Mount Vernon, and threatened the manager of the estate, if refreshments were not furnished they would destroy the house. When Washington heard of it, he wrote to the manager of his affairs at home, saying, "I am very sorry to hear of your loss, I am a little sorry to hear of my own, but that which gives me *most concern* is, that you should go aboard the enemy's vessel and furnish *them* with refreshments. It would have been a less painful circumstance to me, to have heard that in consequence of your non-compliance with their demand, they had burned my house, and laid the plantation in ruins." Washington loved his country better than his own interests. In a letter to the Governor of Virginia, when only twenty-two years old, speaking of the increase of pay, he says, "For my own part, it is a matter almost indifferent whether I serve for full pay or as a generous volunteer. Did my circumstances correspond with my inclination, I should not hesitate for a moment to prefer the latter, for the *motives that led me are pure and noble*. In refusing the salary voted by Congress, he asked that it should defray only his expenses.

## RECALLED INTO SERVICE.

Washington had not long retired to the delightful spot at Vernon, before the cannon's roar was heard echoing along the Potomac, in the spring of 1755. An English squadron sailed up the river, landed an army at Belhaven, now Alexandria, under the command of General Braddock. He being informed of Washington's merit, and his knowledge of the country which was to be the scene of action ; and learning the cause of his retiring from the service, exclaimed, "he was a lad of sense and spirit, and had acted as become a soldier, and a man of honor." He immediately wrote him a pressing invitation to assume the situation of volunteer aid-de-camp, which involved no question of rank, and which was accepted. In the action of the Monongahela, Braddock fell, and was brought off the field by Colonel Washington, and Captain Stewart of the guards, and his servant. It was the opinion of his countrymen that if the advice of Washington had been pursued, the great waste of life in the battle, in which Braddock fell, would have been avoided. This was an early and painful event in the history of our country. For the want of that intelligence, foresight, and skill, so necessary in a General at the head of an army, there was a great waste of life in the defence of liberty. These qualifications distinguished Washington in the field.



## THE TWO BROTHERS.

Lawrence, the brother of Washington, had a very great regard and affection for him. By the earnest request of Lawrence, George accompanied him on a voyage to Bermuda, for the benefit of his health, which was then very delicate. These two brothers never met after George departed on the expedition in which he was finally captured by the French and Indians. Lawrence rejoiced in the fame of Washington, predicted his future eminence, and when he died, gave him the entire estate of Mount Vernon. Lawrence died at Mount Vernon, on the 26th of July, 1752; leaving a wife and infant daughter. By his will, his property was bequeathed to his daughter, but in case of her death, without issue, it was to devolve on Washington, with a reservation of a life interest in favor of his wife.

## RESOLUTION AND HARDIHOOD.

In the journal of Washington, kept by himself, we find him often during his expeditions trudging through the pathless forests with his watch-coat, gun in hand, and pack on his shoulders. At one time his horses had become too weak to carry the provisions necessary for their support through the wilderness. Washington determined to proceed on foot to some place where others might be obtained.

“I took,” he says, “my necessary papers, pulled off my clothes, and tied myself up in a watch-coat. Then with gun in hand, and pack on my back, in which were my papers and provisions, I sat out with Mr. Gist, the 26th of December. The next day, after we had passed a place called Murdering Town, we fell in with a party of French Indians, who had lain in wait for us. One of them fired at us, but fortunately missed. We took the fellow into custody, and kept him till nine o’clock at night, then let him go, and walked the remaining part of the night without making any stop. The next day we continued traveling until quite dark, and got to the river about two miles above Shanopin. The river was not frozen except about fifty yards from the shore. There was no way of getting over but on a raft, which we set about with but one poor hatchet, and finished just after sunsetting. We launched it,—then went on board, and set off; but before we were half over, we were jammed in the ice, in such a manner, that we expected every moment our raft to sink, and ourselves to perish. In trying to stop the raft by a pole, that the ice might pass by, it came with such force against the pole, that it jerked me into ten feet of water. They failed to reach the shore, and were obliged to quit the raft, and make for the island near by. It was so cold, that Gist had all his fingers, and some of his toes frozen. The next morning the water was shut up so hard, that we got off from the island on the ice, and proceeded to Mr. Frazier’s.” Here

they met twenty warriors going South, to war. The first years of Washington's service in his country were marked by great fortitude and hardness amidst the wild scenes of Indian haunts and forest adventures.

#### A DIARY.

It was a custom with Washington for several years previous to the Revolution, to keep a diary of the prominent incidents that occurred within his observation. For this purpose he used an almanac, interleaved with blank paper, and bound in a small volume. He made daily entrances, under three heads. First. "*Where, how, or with whom my time is spent.*" Second. "*Account of the weather.*" Third. "*Remarks and observations.*" Nearly every night he noted the aspect of the heavens, during the preceding day. When he left home he carried the interleaved almanac in his pocket, with another little book, in which he entered daily the amount of money paid by him, and the objects for which it was paid. This custom he suspended during the Revolution, and afterwards renewed it.

#### INDIAN SAGACITY.

When Mr. Gist went over the Alleghanies in February, 1751, on a tour of discovery from the

Ohio Company, an Indian who spake to him in good English, said, "that their great man the Beaver, and Captain Oppamyluah, (two chiefs of the Delawares), wished to know where the Indians' land lay, for the French claimed all on one side of the Ohio River, and the English all on the other." Gist found it hard to answer the question, and disposed of it, by saying, "that the Indians and the white men were all subjects of the same king, and all had equal privilege of possessing the land on the conditions prescribed.

Sachem Gachradodow, in a speech to the commissioners from Virginia, says, "You know well, when the white people first came here, they were poor,—but now they have our lands, and are rich. What little we have had for the land soon goes away, but the land lasts forever." Again,—“The Great King might send you over to conquer the Indians, but it looks to us that God did not approve it, if he had, he would not have placed the great sea where it is, as the limits between us and you.”

#### WASHINGTON AND THE INDIAN.

When Washington made his tour of discovery down the Yonghiogany river, he embarked in a canoe with Lieutenant West, and his Indian guide. The Indian would go no further than the Forks, about ten miles, till Washington promised him a ruffle shirt, and a watch-coat. This with other

similar demands, led Washington to solicit some of the treaty goods, from the Governor, suitable for presents to Indians, saying, "that four or five hundred pounds worth, would do more good than as many thousands given at a treaty." By this means of making presents to Indians, intelligence was obtained that was of great advantage to the Americans.

#### GIVING NAMES.

Queen Allquippa, desired that her son, who was an Indian warrior, might be taken into council, as he was growing old, and that he might have an English name given him. Washington called the Indians together, and presented him a medal, requesting the old man to wear it, in remembrance of his great father the king of England,—and called him by the name of Colonel Fairfax, which name signified the first of the council. The Indians were very fond of giving names to the whites; Washington they named *Connotancarius*. The Governor of Pennsylvania they called *Onas*,—of Virginia, *Assaragaa*. The name pertained to the office. The giving of names was attended with much ceremony. Colonel William Fairfax was educated in England. He entered the army, and was killed at the famous siege of Quebec. He was a young man of much promise. It is related, that when General Wolfe had landed, he saw young Fairfax sitting

near the bank of the river, and touching him on the shoulder, said, "Young man, when we come to action, remember your *name*."

#### WHISTLING OF BULLETS.

A gentleman who heard the Rev. Mr. Davies relate, that Washington had mentioned, "he knew of no music so pleasing as the whistling of bullets," being alone with him at Cambridge, in conversation, asked him whether it was as he had related. The General answered, "If I said so, it was when I was young."

#### PROVIDENTIAL.

In the battle at Monongahela, it is supposed that of the Americans three hundred were killed, and about the same number brought off wounded. Halket was killed in the field where many other brave officers fell. Washington says, in a letter to his brother John A. Washington, "By the all powerful dispensations of Providence, I have been protected beyond all human probability, or expectation, for I had four bullets through my coat, and two horses shot under me, yet escaped unhurt, although death was leveling my companions on every side of me." This confirmed the prediction of the old Indian warrior who led the hostile sava-

ges, who often said,—“ That man was never to be killed by a bullet ; for he had seventeen times had a fair shot at him with his rifle, yet could not bring him down.”

#### AN EXCITING SCENE.

In the battle of Monongahela, the indiscreet, but gallant Braddock fell, while Washington survived, though exposed to a thousand marksmen. The scene is thus described,—“ Braddock encouraged his soldiers, and was crying out with his speaking trumpet, “ Hurrah, boys ! lose the saddle or win the horse ! ” when a bullet struck him, and he fell to the ground, exclaiming, “ Ha, boys ! I’m gone ! ” During this time not a cannon had been fired by the British forces. One who stood by Washington at this moment, says, “ I saw him take hold of a brass field piece, as if it had been a stick. He looked like a fury ; he tore the sheet lead from the touch-hole ; he placed one hand on the muzzle, the other on the breech ; he pulled with this, and pushed with that, and wheeled it round as if it had been nothing. The powder monkey rushed up with the fire, and then the cannon began to bark, and the Indians came down. That place they call Rock Hill, and there they left five hundred men dead on the ground.” The army suffered a total defeat. The survivors retreated across the Monon-

gahela, where they rested, and the General breathed his last, leaving Washington to give orders.

#### A RARE COMPLIMENT.

After Braddock's death, and Dunbar's ignominious desertion, the Virginia Assembly being then in session, sixteen companies were immediately raised to meet the dangers to which the province was exposed, and the command of which was offered to Washington, with the rare compliment of permission to name his field officers. At this time the whole frontier of Virginia, extending three hundred and sixty miles, lay exposed to the Indians, whose enmity was terrible, constantly making inroads on the frontier settlements, and butchering men, women and children. At this time the hopes of Virginia rested on the virtue and genius of Washington.

#### THE MOTHER AND THE BABES.

“ One day,” says Washington, “ as we were traversing a part of the frontier, we came upon a single log house standing in the centre of a little clearing, surrounded by woods on all sides. As we approached, we heard the report of a gun. Our party crept through the underwood, until we approached near enough to see what we had already



foreboded. A smoke was slowly making its way through the roof of the house, while at the same moment a party of Indians came forth laden with plunder, consisting of clothes, furniture, and dripping scalps. We fired and killed all. On entering the hut, we saw a mournful sight. On a bed, in one corner of the room lay the body of a young woman swimming in blood. On her breast lay two little babes, apparently twins, less than a twelve-month old, with their heads also cut open. "Never," says Washington, "in my after life, did I raise my hand against a savage, without calling to mind the mother, with her little twins, their heads cleft asunder."

#### THE PLOUGH BOY.

While examining the tracks of the Indians to see what other murders were committed, "we found a little boy; and a few steps beyond, his father, both scalped, and both stone dead. From the prints of the feet of the boy, it would seem he had been following the plough with his father, who, being probably shot down, had attempted to escape. But the poor boy was pursued, overtaken, and murdered. The ruin was complete. Women and children clung around our knees, beseeching us to stay and protect them, and not to leave them to be butchered by the savages. A hundred times I declare to heaven," says Washington, "I would

have laid down my life with pleasure, even under the tomahawk and scalping knife, could I have ensured the safety of those suffering people by the sacrifice."

#### THE FIRST ENGAGEMENT.

When Washington was informed by the half king Tanacharison that the French were encamped within a few miles of him, he placed himself at the head of forty men, and set off to an Indian camp, six miles distant. It was a gloomy night in the latter part of May. The rain came pouring down from thick black clouds, drenching every soldier to the skin. They marched on through the forests, stumbling over logs and rocks, and knocking their muskets against the trees as they groped their way along. No sound was heard save the pattering rain drops on the leaves, or the musket barrel of some poor fellow stumbling in the dark ; or the low word of command which fell from the lips of their young but daring leader. After traveling all night in the dark, they arrived at sunrise at the Indian camp. There uniting with the friendly savages, they marched in Indian file through the forest, taking the French by surprise. A short tussle and the victory was gained. The commander, with ten Frenchmen were killed, and the rest taken prisoners. This was Washington's first engagement, and with it commenced the French and Indian war.

## THE BATTLE SCENE.

While on his way as aid-de-camp to Braddock, in the expedition against the French, Washington was taken sick, and left behind ; but being determined if possible to be present at the approaching battle, he started on and joined Braddock the evening before it took place. The morning of that eventful day, the British soldiers moved in full columns, and in beautiful order along the banks of the Monongahela to the sound of martial music. The gentle river on one side, and the green forest on the other, with nearly two thousand steel bayonets glittering in the rising sun, gave additional brilliancy to the whole scene. As Washington gazed on the scene, he was heard to say, " that it was the most brilliant spectacle he ever beheld." But how soon was the scene changed. He predicted that the army would fall into an ambuscade. It soon became a scene of disorder and confusion ; while whole ranks fell at the discharge of muskets and cannon. Braddock was in a dilemma, ordered his men into platoons, and close columns, according to his custom, on the plains of Europe. Washington was young, only twenty-three years old,—he was obliged to gaze with indignation on this sacrifice of life, without the authority to command a single company.

## WASHINGTON TAKES COMMAND.

After Braddock fell, and was borne wounded from the field, Washington's tall and commanding form was visible, amid the smoke and fire of battle. While soldiers were falling on every side of him, he spurred his steed over the dead and the dying, straining every nerve to stay the reversed tide of battle. Soon his horse fell beneath him,—springing on the back of another, he pressed on amid the broken ranks with sword pointing in this, and that direction. A second horse fell beneath him, when he leaped to the saddle of the third, while bullets fell like hail stones around him. It was here that an old Indian chief took deliberate aim at him several times, and bade his warriors do the same; but finding their shots took no effect, they ceased firing, believing that he was under the protection of the Great Spirit. This same chief came some years afterward to pay homage to the man whom he could not shoot.

## A DANGEROUS POSITION.

At Kipps' Bay, during his retreat to Harlaem Heights, Washington exhibited a recklessness beyond degree. The new levies that were stationed to support this point, fled; and the two brigades ordered up fled also. Washington was astonished

at such cowardice; he endeavored to rally them, but finding his efforts fruitless, he rushed in upon them with drawn sword, snapping his pistol in their faces. Finding this useless, he wheeled, and halted alone in front of the enemy, and there, like Murat, in front of the Russian battery, faced the enemy and the cannon's mouth. One of his attendants seeing his dangerous position, seized the reins of his horse, and turned him off the field.

#### HEROISM.

One writer who says, "I do not believe that Washington knew the sensation of fear," describes him in the battles of Monmouth and Princeton, thus,—“At Monmouth, amid the thunder of artillery, and shouts of the victorious pursuers, he rallied his broken ranks, and rolled back the tide of battle with his mighty arm; which exhibits both the impetuosity of his character, and determined bravery, which made him such a fearful antagonist in the field.

At Princeton, stealing by night from the overwhelming English army, he came in the morning upon three regiments marching out of town, which he must break in pieces, or be ruined. In the very crisis of battle, seeing his men begin to waver, and break, he snatched a standard, and plunging the rowels in his steed, spurred midway between the contending lines; and with his manly breast turned

full on the foe, said, in language more eloquent than words, *Follow your General.*"

At Germantown, finding his troops hard pressed, he rode into the vortex of battle, where shot fell thick about him. His friends urged him away, but in a few moments his tall form was again seen enveloped in smoke, and no power could stir him from the deadly fire, till his men began to retreat."

#### A GLOOMY PERIOD IN 1776.

One of the most critical periods of the whole war was just before the close of the campaign in 1776. A general gloom pervaded the continent. Many places were in possession of the enemy, who were then moving down on Philadelphia. Cities were captured, forts had fallen, Lee was made prisoner, and an army of 20,000 was reduced to 4000, and they, a remnant, pursued by Cornwallis. At this crisis, General Howe issued a proclamation, giving pardon to all who would take the oath of allegiance within sixty days. Multitudes of persons of influence and wealth accepted the terms, and all seemed to be at stake. At this moment Washington stood firm,—without a faltering step. He saw the gloomy aspect of his country, but amidst it all, he saw the dawn of day. When asked, "what he would do if Philadelphia should be taken," he replied, "*We will retreat beyond the Susquehanna; and thence if necessary to the Alleghany mountains.*"

## MARRIAGE AND DOMESTIC LIFE.

## ACCIDENTAL MEETING.

IN the close of 1758, Washington resigned his commission, bade adieu to his associates in arms, and retired to Mount Vernon, and there remained until he was again called to the service of his country. Virginia had been a scene of blood and desolation; but now her sons rested in safety; her valiant soldiers laid aside their arms; and the Indian warhoop was no longer a terror. He was now twenty-seven years of age, with a character firmly established,—adorned with unfading laurels, which he had won by his integrity, patriotism, and military skill; a sage in council; a hero in battle.

The next fifteen years he spent in the bosom of tranquillity, engaged in rural occupations, and domestic duties. Soon after his retirement, he married Mrs. Martha Custis, a young, accomplished, and beautiful widow, born the same year with himself, and possessing a great fortune. It is related that the first meeting of Washington with Mrs. Custis was accidental, and occurred at the house of Mr. Chamberlayne, who resided on the Pamumkey, a branch of York river. At the time, Washington was passing to Williamsburg, on important busi-

ness, he met Chamberlayne, who insisted on his stopping at his house a short time, and partaking of some refreshment. He complied with the request, and there saw for the first time, the lady who became the partner of his life. The original picture of Mrs. Custis, as she appeared to Washington, and won his affections, is thus described :—" A figure rather below the middle size, with hazel eyes, and hair of the same color ; finely rounded arms, a beautiful chest, and taper waist ; dressed in a blue silk robe, of the fashion of the times." Washington tarried over night, and the next morning departed from his host, leaving his heart behind him, and taking another away in exchange.

#### THE MARRIAGE, 1759.

The union of Washington to Mrs. Custis is reported to have occurred at the " White House," in January, 1759. Her original name was *Dandridge* ; she was born in the county of New Kent, in the colony of Virginia, in May, 1732 ; she descended from a line of ancestors represented by Orlando Jones, a Welsh minister. At the age of seventeen, in the beauty of youth, she was married to Colonel Daniel Parke Custis, the son of Hon. John Custis, of Arlington, who resided on the banks of the Pamumkey river. He was a man of lofty sentiments, and of generous heart ; of whom it is said, that his bountiful table was often spread,



waiting for the passing traveler. In this marriage, Mrs. Custis became the mother of three children; one of whom was taken away before the death of Colonel Custis. He died early, before he had scarcely attained the prime of manhood; leaving the young wife with three children to claim her care and affection. Mr. Sparks states, that, "Mr. Custis had left large landed estates in New Kent County, and forty-five thousand pounds sterling in money. One third part of this property, she held in her own right; the other two thirds being equally divided between her children."

The beautiful and gifted widow was the object of many admirers, of "manly beauty, intelligence, polished manners, and high honor;" but she was to be the wife of the Patriot; by whose side, in prosperity and adversity, she maintained her integrity, and for whom she exemplified the highest affection.

#### THE WEDDING NIGHT.

"All was in elegant and tasteful preparation in the White House, for the elaborate and splendid celebration of the approaching bridal. Numerous relatives and friends, magistrates of the 'Old Dominion,' stately matrons, and dignified statesmen; the young, the beautiful, the brave, were assembled in honor of nuptials so signally aus-

picious.\* Much hath the biographert heard of that marriage from gray haired domestics, who waited at the board where love made the feast, and Washington was the guest. And rare was the scene at that palmy period of Virginia's festal age, for many were gathered at that marriage of the good, the great, the gifted, and the gay; while Virginia, with joyous acclamation, hailed in her youthful hero a prosperous and happy bridegroom." By this marriage, more than one hundred thousand dollars was added to Washington's fortune.

#### THE NEW HOME.

As soon as Washington removed to Mount Vernon, he commenced improving the Mansion, and tastefully fitting it up for the comfort and convenience of his wife. In the papers of Washington, collected by Sparks, are found:—

"*Directions for the Busts.*—One of Alexander the Great; one of Julius Cæsar; one of Charles XII., of Sweden; and a fourth of the King of Prussia." A few years after Frederick the Great sent him a portrait of himself, with these words: "From the oldest General in Europe, to the greatest General in the World."

"Two other busts, of Prince Eugene, and the Duke of Marlborough, somewhat smaller.

\* Memoir of Martha Washington.

† Sparks.

“ Two Wild Beasts, not to exceed twelve inches in height, nor eighteen in length.

“ Sundry small ornaments for chimney pieces.”

This was a period when the conveniences and luxuries of life were not so plenty in this country as now ; and will account for the importation of clothing, implements of agriculture, as well as many articles of food, by the order of Washington from his agents in England.

Mrs. Washington enjoyed this new home, and entered upon the duties devolving upon her with all that interest which becomes a wife. She attended to the affairs of her household, and gave direction in the education of her children *John* and *Martha*, and united with her husband in a respectful attention to friends and guests, and generous hospitality to strangers. Their resources were ample, and their hearts were truly benevolent. It is recorded that when he was at home, a day seldom passed without the company of friends or strangers.

A sad event in the year 1770, suddenly enshrouded their pleasant home in gloom. Martha, their daughter, a bright and cherished jewel, the mother's pride and joy, was laid in the urn of death, when she had just attained to years of maturity. Who can tell the sorrow of the stricken heart as she laid this lovely ornament in the grave ?

“ Time ne'er wears out the trace of deep sorrow !”

## TESTIMONY OF AFFECTION.

When Washington left Mount Vernon to meet with Congress, at Philadelphia, his wife remained at home. During the nine months of their separation, she watched with intense interest the deliberations of the Assembly, and was at last informed that the war, "actually begun," demanded his services as commander of the army.

In the letter containing the intelligence, from his own pen, he expressed the highest testimony of his regard to her welfare. He was then required to proceed immediately to Boston, to command the army. He writes:—"You may believe me my dear Patsy, when I assure you in the most solemn manner, that, so far from seeking this appointment, I have used every endeavor in my power to avoid it; not only from my unwillingness to part with you, and the family; but from the consciousness of its being a trust too great for my capacity; and that I should enjoy more happiness in one month with you at home, than I have the most distant prospect of finding abroad, if my stay were to be seven times seven years. But as it has been a kind destiny that has thrown me upon this service, I shall hope that my undertaking it is designed to answer some good purpose. I shall feel no anxiety from the toil of the campaign; my unhappiness will flow from the uneasiness of your being left alone."

## THE BALL GIVEN UP.

By the solicitation of Washington, when at Cambridge, Mrs. Washington left Mount Vernon, as some fears were entertained of her safety, if she remained there, to rejoin him at Head-Quarters. When on her way, she was met at Philadelphia, and escorted into the city by Colonel Hancock, and other officers,—the Light Infantry of the Second Battalion, and the company of Light Horse. A ball was in contemplation, to which she was invited; but before the time appointed had arrived, fears were entertained that the festivities of the evening would be interrupted. A meeting of the citizens was called, “for the purpose of considering the propriety of allowing the ball to be given;” when the sentiment was expressed, that no such entertainment should take place, either then, or “in future, while these troublous times continued.” Mrs. Washington coincided with the sentiment of the citizens, and expressed her acknowledgments to the Committee, for their attention in securing her against any annoyance which might have occurred. After a journey of over six hundred miles, Mrs. Washington joined her husband at Cambridge the 11th of December, where she was comfortably situated in the deserted house of a wealthy tory.

## DOMESTIC LIFE.

When the British fleet left Boston harbor, Mrs. Washington departed for her home, when she entered upon the domestic duties of life, and systematized her affairs as the exigencies of the times demanded. An anecdote is related on her own authority, "that she had a great deal of domestic cloth made in her house, and that sixteen spinning wheels were kept in operation at Mount Vernon." On one occasion when conversing with some friends upon this and similar topics, she gave the best proof of her success in domestic manufactures by the exhibition of two of her dresses, which were composed of cotton, striped with silk, and entirely home made. The silk stripes in the fabric, were woven from the ravelings of brown silk stockings, and old crimson damask chair covers."\*

## MRS. WASHINGTON AND THE CARPENTERS.

The following anecdote as related by Mrs. Ellet, will show the readiness of Mrs. Washington to accommodate herself to the emergencies of the times. In 1777, Washington had conducted his weary soldiers at Morristown, in New Jersey, for winter quarters. "There were but two frame houses in the settlement, and neither had a finished

\* Memoir of Martha Washington.

upper story. The General was contented with his rough dwelling, but wished to prepare for his wife a more retired and comfortable apartment. He sent for the young mechanic, and desired him, and one of his apprentices to fit up a room in the upper story for her accommodation through the winter. She herself arrived, before the work commenced. "She came," says the Military Carpenter, "into the place,—a portly looking agreeable woman of forty-five, and said to us, 'Now young men, I care for nothing but comfort here; and should like you to fit me up a beaufet on one side of the room, and some shelves, and places for hanging clothes on the other.' We went to work with all our might. Every morning Mrs. Washington came up with a glass of spirits for each of us; and after she and the General had dined, we were called down to eat at the same table. We worked hard, nailing smooth boards over rough and worm eaten planks, and stopping the crevices in the walls, made by time and hard usage. We studied to do every thing to please the lady, and to make some return for the kindness of the General. On the fourth day when Mrs. Washington came up to see how we were getting along, we had finished the work, made the shelves, put up the pegs in the wall, built the beaufet, and converted the rough garret into a comfortable apartment. As she stood looking round, I said, 'Madam, we have endeavored to do the best we could, I hope we have suited you.' She replied, smiling, "I am astonished! your

work would do honor to an old master, and you are mere lads,—I am not only satisfied, but highly gratified by what you have done for my comfort.’ ”

MRS. WASHINGTON AT MORRISTOWN.

On one occasion when Mrs. Washington with her companions (the officers' wives), remained in the camp at Morristown, there were some apprehensions that the enemy were fast approaching. It was proposed that the ladies should be sent away under a military escort. Washington opposed the proposition, saying, “ *The presence of our wives* will better encourage us to a brave defence.” During *her* residence at the camp, she devoted much time in attending the sick, ministering to their wants, and cheering the desponding hearts of weary soldiers. And when she departed from the camp, where her benevolent and disinterested spirit shone with such lustre, the prayers and blessings of soldiers followed her path. She reverts to these trying scenes of her life, passed amid sorrows and sufferings in the camp of the American army, as among the most useful and happiest hours of her life. Credit will ever be given to this illustrious woman for her magnanimity, sacrifice, and sympathy for the suffering. For when the British soldiers were sheltered in cities and populous towns, enjoying the advantages of good quarters; the wife of the “ American Soldier,” a woman of fortune, of



intelligence and beauty, high moral qualities, and refined sensibilities, shared with the suffering army at Valley Forge, during the cold and bleak winter of '77.

While the American army lay in winter quarters at Morristown, N. J., it is related that Washington on one occasion, told one of his hungry men, to go to his table and refresh himself, while he would take his gun and perform the duty of a common soldier, as a sentinel in his place. By such acts of condescension, Washington greatly endeared himself to the American soldiers.

#### MRS. WASHINGTON AT HOME.

An anecdote is related of Mrs. Washington which illustrates her easy and graceful accomplishments at home, in the midst of domestic life. It is related by Mrs. Vail, the daughter of Mr. Uzal Kuchell:—

“ Among other frequent visitors was Mrs. Troupe, the lady of a half-pay Captain in the British Navy. She is described as a lady of affable manners, and of intelligence, and much esteemed.

“ One day she visited Mrs. Tuttle, and the usual compliments were hardly passed, before she said, “ Well, what do you think, Mrs. T. ? I have been to see Lady Washington ! ”

“ Have you, indeed ? Then tell me all about

how you found her ladyship, how she appeared, and what she said."

"Well, I will honestly tell you," answered Mrs. Troupe, "I never was so ashamed in all my life. You see Madame ——, and Madame ——, and Madame Bubb, and myself, thought we would visit lady Washington, and as she was said to be so grand a lady, we thought we must put on our best bibs and bands. So we dressed ourselves in our most elegant ruffles, and silks, and were introduced to her ladyship. And don't you think, we found her *knitting, and with a specked (check) apron on!* She received us very graciously, and easily, but after the compliments were over, she resumed her knitting. There we were without a stitch of work, and sitting in state, but General Washington's lady with her own hands was knitting stockings for herself and husband!

And this was not all. In the afternoon her ladyship took occasion to say, in a way that we could not be offended at, that at this time it was very important that American ladies should be patterns of industry to their countrywomen, because the separation from the mother country will dry up the sources whence many of our comforts have been derived. We must become independent by our determination to do without what we cannot make ourselves. Whilst our husbands and brothers are examples of patriotism, we must be patterns of industry!"

According to Mrs. Troupe's story, Mrs. Wash-

ington gave her visitors some excellent advice, and meanwhile adding force to her words by her actions, and withal in such a way that they could not take offence. In this she proved herself more worthy to occupy her distinguished position, than she could have done by all the graceful and elegant accomplishments which are often found in princesses and queens. In the relations she occupied, her knitting-work, and her checked apron, were queenly ornaments, and we may be proud to know that such a woman as Martha Washington set such an admirable example to her country-women.

#### A CELEBRATION IN THE CAMP.

In the month of May, 1778, when the soldiers of the Revolution were in a state of suffering privation, and almost hopeless despair, intelligence came to them that France had publicly recognized the independence of the American Republic, and that her efficient aid would be given to the cause of freedom.

“ A day was set apart for a public celebration in camp. It began in the morning with religious services, and a discourse to each of the brigades by one of its Chaplains. Then followed military parades ; marchings and firings of cannon, and musketry, according to a plan announced in the general orders. The appearance was brilliant, and the effect imposing. The whole ceremony was

conducted with perfect regularity, and closed with demonstrations of joy." The evacuation of Philadelphia by Sir Henry Clinton, was the signal for wearied soldiers to depart from Valley Forge. It will be remembered that Mrs. Washington, each year of the campaign, made long and tedious journeys by carriage, to rejoin her husband at winter quarters.

#### SKETCH OF THE NEWBURG-HOUSE.

The following extracts from Mrs. Ellet, quoted from a manuscript letter, will illustrate the domestic arrangements, and generous hospitality of a life in the camp, honored by the presence of "lady Washington." The letter was written by the Marquis de Chastellux:—

"The Head-Quarters at Newburg, consists of a single house, built in the Dutch fashion, and neither large nor commodious. The largest room in it, which Washington has converted into a dining room, has seven doors, and only one window. The chimney is against the wall, so that there is in fact but one vent for the smoke, and the fire is on the room itself. I found the company assembled in a small room, which served as a parlor. At nine supper was served, and when bed time came, I found that the chamber to which the General conducted me, was the very parlor spoken of, wherein he had made them place a camp bed. We assem-

bled at breakfast the next morning at ten, during which interval my bed was folded up, and my bed chamber became the sitting room for the afternoon. The smallness of the house, and the inconvenience to which I saw that the General, and Mrs. Washington had put themselves to receive me, made me apprehensive lest M. Rochambeau might arrive on the same day."

The house here described, is said to be still standing entire, at Newburg; and is seen from the steamer's deck on the Hudson, by the passing traveler.

#### TUCKER'S COMMISSION.

Washington organized a navy in 1775, after his arrival at Cambridge. Samuel Tucker, who lived in Marblehead, was selected as Captain. An officer was dispatched with the commission. Marblehead was then a small sea-port, and the arrival of a stranger in martial costume, on a steed adorned with military trappings, and in great haste, created quite an excitement in the village. The people gazed at him as he passed, and with eager eyes watched him till he rode up and dismounted in a yard, where a man was busily chopping wood. He was dressed in a tarpaulin hat, brown breeches, pea-jacket, and a red bandanna round his neck. The officer thought he must have mistaken the house, and exclaimed, "I say, fellow, can you tell

me if the honorable Samuel Tucker lives hereabouts?" "Honorable, honorable," says the man; "why he must be one of the family of Salem, for I am the only Samuel Tucker there is here." The officer took out of his pocket the commission, and looked at it, and then at Tucker, saying, "Captain Glover told me he knew him, and that he lived in this town, and as this *house* answers the description, you certainly must be the man. He then handed him the sealed letter. Mr. Tucker invited the military stranger into his house, and after partaking of some refreshment, he returned to the camp. In the presence of some of his friends, Mr. Tucker broke the seal, and read to them his commission. The next morning he was on his way to Franklin, and lost no time in making preparations to command the navy on the ocean for prizes. One of the most fortunate prizes which he took, was a transport, loaded with powder, after the evacuation of Boston, on the 17th of March, 1776, for which he received the thanks of Washington.

#### THE THIEF CURED.

While residing at Mount Vernon, and when not engaged in Colonial affairs in the House of Burgesses, Washington spent his time on the plantation. He was fond of shooting, and during the hunting season, he was chasing the fox every other day. Headley relates the following anecdote of

Washington, in reference to a man trespassing on his plantation :—

“ A thieving lawless fellow was accustomed to come in his canoe across the Potomac, and landing in some sheltered nook, hunt over the grounds of Mount Vernon. Washington had frequently re-proved him, and warned him to cease, but to no purpose. One day hearing a gun in the distance, he sprang into his saddle, and rode in the direction of the sound. The poacher was on the look out for Washington’s approach, and ran for the canoe, and had just pushed it from the shore, when the latter rode up. Raising his gun, he took deliberate aim at Washington, expecting to daunt him ; but Washington dashed up to the culprit, and seizing his canoe dragged it ashore. He then disarmed him, and gave him a severe flogging, which effectually cured his thieving propensities.

#### THE PORTRAIT.

The Portrait of Washington, taken by Mr. Peale just before he entered upon the last service for his country, represents him in the vigor of manhood, and in the uniform of the provincial troops,—a cocked hat, as worn in those times ; a blue coat, faced and lined with scarlet ; waistcoat and breeches of the same color. In the left hand pocket of the coat and waistcoat is seen a paper endorsed “ Order of March,”—both are edged with silver lace, and

the buttons of white metal. A gorget shaped like a crescent, and bearing the arms of England, is suspended from the neck by a blue ribbon; and an embroidered lilac colored crape sash thrown over the left shoulder. The right hand is partly thrust into the waistcoat, and covered with a thick buff buckskin glove; and the left arm is passed behind the back, so as to sustain a fusee; the barrel of which projects above the shoulder. This dress he wore on the fatal field of Rock Hill.\*

The elder Mr. Peale painted a portrait of Washington, at Mount Vernon, in 1772. While engaged in this work, he was one day amusing himself with the young members of the family in playing at quoits, and other exercises, when Washington joined in the play and beat them all.

\* Paulding's Life of Washington, Vol. I.



## ANECDOTES OF THE REVOLUTION.

## ADAMS AND WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON was nominated in Congress as commander of the army by Thomas Jefferson. It was however, the intention of John Adams to have made the nomination. Three days after the appointment, Mr. Adams expressed his testimony in a letter to Mr. Gerry, viz :—"There is something charming to me in the conduct of Washington. A gentleman of one of the finest fortunes upon the continent, leaving his delicious retirement, his family and friends, and hazarding all in the cause of his country. His views are noble and disinterested. He declared when he accepted the mighty trust, that he would lay before us the exact account of his expenses, and not accept a shilling for pay."\*

A committee of the Congress of Massachusetts, waited to receive him at Springfield, on the confines of the colony, and to escort him to the army. On his arrival, an address was presented to him, breathing the most cordial affection, and testifying the most exalted respect. To this address Washington gave the following answer :—

\* Life of Gerry, Vol. I., p. 90.

“ *Gentlemen*,—Your kind congratulations on my appointment, and arrival, demand my warmest acknowledgments, and will be ever retained in grateful remembrance. In exchanging the enjoyments of domestic life for the duties of my present, honorable, but arduous situation, I only emulate the virtue and public spirit of the whole province of Massachusetts, which, with a firmness and patriotism, without example, has sacrificed all the comforts of social and political life, in support of the rights of mankind, and the welfare of our common country. My highest ambition is to be the happy instrument of vindicating these rights, and to see this devoted province restored to peace, liberty, and safety.

GEO. WASHINGTON.”

#### TAXATION.

The dispute which existed between England and her colonies, originated in the claim of the former to tax the latter without their consent. As Englishmen, they asserted their rights, and as no native of that country could be taxed without the consent of a Parliament, they insisted the same rule should be extended to them. Among those who plead the cause of Americans, was Burke, and Pitt; the latter had been made Earl of Chatham. Pitt nobly vindicated the rights of freemen. In addressing the House of Lords, on one occasion, he says:—  
“ There are three millions of whigs in America,

with arms in their hands. There are twice as many in England; and I hope the whigs of both countries will unite, and make a common cause, in defence of their common rights."

His eloquent voice was unheard, and the prediction of this great statesman was literally fulfilled. An act was passed, which shut up the port of Boston, and destroyed her trade. The British determined to enforce the system of taxation. The Americans were aroused; a Congress of all the colonies was convened, and a declaration made of their rights to the ancient privileges of Englishmen. This event gave rise to the battles at Concord, Lexington, and Bunker Hill.

#### THE FIRST MARTYRS.

When the British arrived at Lexington, they met a small company of American soldiers. Major Pitcairn, who headed the British party, advanced towards the latter on horseback, and cried out in a furious tone, "Disperse you rebels, lay down your arms and disperse." His orders not being obeyed, he discharged a pistol, and ordered his men to fire. They obeyed his orders,—the inhabitants of Lexington who were spectators of the scene, fled, while the soldiers returned the fire. Several persons were killed on both sides. This matter roused the people to resistance; and the farmers left their ploughs in the fields, and their horses in the gears,

and seizing their guns, rushed to the defence of their liberty. The Americans pursued the enemy as they fled towards Boston, through the woods, and over stone walls ; and before they arrived at Boston, the number of the slain, wounded, and taken prisoners, was 273. Out of the small company of Lexington soldiers, seven were killed, and ten wounded. In the company were nine by the name of Smith, twelve of Harrington, and thirteen others. Among these were the first martyrs to liberty in the western world.

#### JONAS PARKER.

Among the numerous examples of courage and devotion to liberty, in the battle of Lexington, and Concord, is that of Jonas Parker. He had been heard to say, " that be the consequences what they might, and let others do as they pleased, he would never run from the enemy. He was as good as his word. Having loaded his musket, he placed his hat containing his ammunition on the ground between his feet, in readiness for a second charge. At the second fire he was wounded, and sunk on his knees, and in this condition discharged his gun. While loading it again, upon his knees, and striving in the agonies of death to redeem his pledge, he was transfixd by a bayonet ; and thus died on the spot where he stood and fell."\*

\* Address of Edward Everett.

## THE FIRST SURRENDER.

General Burgoyne had gone on in successful triumph, but fortune now turned on the American side. The Indians disappointed in their plunders, deserted their allies, and departed to their woods. After many severe encounters, in which Arnold, Morgan, and others, distinguished themselves, a scene occurred which rejoiced the hearts of those who were struggling for freedom. At the mouth of the Saratoga Lake, and close to the side of the Hudson, there lies a rich meadow extending up the stream a considerable distance. It is called a beautiful spot. Here the British army centred, and the American soldiers flocked from the fields and the mountains. Here on this spot, on the morning of October 17th, 1777, the British army lay down its arms and surrendered to the sons of freedom. It was one of the brightest mornings that ever dawned upon this new world. It taught republicans to rely on themselves, and others to rely on them. Americans had received barbarous treatment at the hand of their foes, but on this occasion, when Burgoyne surrendered the sword, they displayed a magnanimity of soul, that is recorded of them as being truly honorable. The scene on the green meadow by the bank of the Hudson, will ever be associated with an event which contributed greatly to the termination of the war. No one can pass the spot

without pausing to contemplate the victory there achieved by the valor of our fathers.

#### ARNOLD AND ANDRE.

General Arnold early enlisted in the cause of American freedom. He was a man of great fortitude and enterprise, and had distinguished himself in his own country, and in Europe, for his military character. After the British had evacuated the city of Philadelphia, he was appointed commandant in that city. Here he adopted a style of living beyond his means, became embarrassed in his pecuniary affairs, and to relieve himself, he adopted various schemes of unsuccessful speculation, and even had recourse to fraud and speculation. Complaints were made against him, which brought him before a court martial, when he was sentenced to be reprimanded. He afterwards obtained a letter from Congress to Washington, to take command of the important post at West Point, which was granted to him without the least suspicion of his treasonable purpose.

Under the disguise of fictitious names, Arnold had opened a correspondence with Sir Henry Clinton, through Major Andre, Adjutant General of the British army, by whom his purpose was matured, and measures facilitated for its execution. Under a pass for John Anderson, he sailed up the

North River in the Sloop of War Vulture, went on shore in the night, and met Arnold without the fortifications at West Point. Not able to finish the business before morning, he was concealed through the day, until the next night. In the course of the day it was necessary for the Vulture to change her station. When night came, the boatmen refused to take Andre on board the sloop. The only way for his return to New York was by land. Andre now laid aside his uniform, put on a plain coat, mounted a horse, and commenced his journey. His passport, signed by Arnold, enabled him to pass the American guards ; and as he was congratulating himself that he had passed all danger, he was met by three militia men, who were on duty among the outposts of the hostile armies. They seized the bridle of his horse, and demanded his business in that place. This sudden interruption embarrassed him, and instead of showing his pass, he asked the men, " where do you belong ; " they answered, " below," meaning New York. Andre replied, " so do I." Declared himself a British officer, and pressed them for permission to pass on his urgent business, in which he was employed. They soon discovered that all was not right. Andre offered them his purse of gold, and a valuable gold watch, if they would permit him to pass. But they were not to be bribed, and proceeded to search him, when they found hid in his boots, in the hand writing of Arnold, exact returns of the state of the forces, and defences of

West Point, with remarks on other matters. The names of the soldiers were,—John Paulding, David Williams, and Isaac Van Wort. They immediately took their prisoner to Lieutenant Jameson, who commanded the troops on the line. To each of these men Congress presented a silver medal ; on one side of which was a shield, with the inscription, “ *Fidelity*,” and on the other the motto, “ *Amor Patriæ*.”

#### EXECUTION OF ANDRE.

After Andre was captured, he still retained his pass as John Anderson, and requested permission of Colonel Jameson to write to Arnold, and inform him that he was detained. His request was granted ; and when Arnold received the letter, he immediately made his escape on board the *Vulture*, before his arrest arrived at West Point. As soon as Andre thought that time had been given for Arnold to make his escape, he threw off his disguise, and made himself known. He wrote a letter to Washington, in which he stated his name, and office, and his correspondence with Arnold, by direction from Henry Clinton, and that against his stipulation, he had been brought within the American post.

His case was referred by Washington to a Council of fourteen General officers, who gave it as their opinion, that Andre was a spy, and that according



to the laws and usages of nations, he ought to suffer death. His execution took place the next day. He wished to die as a soldier, and not as a criminal. With perfect composure, Andre walked to the place of execution, between two American soldiers, and when his eyes met the instrument of his fate, he asked with some emotion, "*must I die in this manner?*" The reply was, "It is unavoidable." "I am reconciled," he answered, "to my *fate*, but not to the *mode*,"—and added, "it will be but a momentary pang." With a serene countenance, which melted the heart of every spectator, he mounted the cart. Being asked if he wished to say anything, he replied, "You will witness to the world that I die like a brave man."

The General Officers deeply lamented the necessity of giving in their opinion that he should be hung. And when Washington signed his death warrant, he did it with deep anguish of soul. The American Officers manifested great sympathy for the unfortunate man, and the occasion excited much sensibility in the public mind.

The character of Andre, as given by General Hamilton, shows him to be a man of eminent qualities, "a peculiar elegance of mind and manners; and the advantages of a pleasing person." The merits and fate of Andre, gave a dark shade to the treachery of Arnold, who became the object of utter detestation. Washington says, in a private letter to a friend, "Andre has met his fate with that fortitude which was to be expected from an

accomplished man, and gallant officer. But I am mistaken, if *at this time*, Arnold is not undergoing the torments of a mental hell."

#### GENERAL BARON STEUBEN.

General Steuben never could hear Arnold mentioned, without feelings of indignation. At one time, while reviewing a regiment, he heard the name of Benedict Arnold called in the muster roll. He immediately ordered the private, bearing this name, to advance out of the line. He was a good looking soldier, and the Baron looked at him for a moment, and said, "Change your name, brother soldier, you are too respectable to bear the name of a traitor." "What name shall I take General?" inquired the young soldier,—"Take any other; mine is at your service." He accepted it, and immediately had his name enrolled, Frederick William Steuben. The General settled upon him in return a pension of five dollars a month, and afterwards gave him a tract of land.

Major General Steuben was a foreigner, of generous sympathies, and whose services were of real benefit to this country. As he was unable to speak our language, he could not take command, but was of great service in the discipline of the troops. He possessed a kind heart. Several anecdotes are related of him, illustrative of his kindness.

At one time when passing from New York to Virginia, he heard an unusual wail in the fore part of the vessel. It so affected him that he made inquiry into the cause, when he was told that a southern gentleman had purchased a little negro boy, and he was crying for his parents. Steuben immediately looked up the man, and purchased the little boy, and carried him back to his home. Soon after, he heard the little fellow was out a fishing, and fell into the water and was drowned. When the Baron heard of it, he manifested much emotion.

When the army at Newburg disbanded, it was a distressing scene to see the officers and men returning to their homes, unpaid, and destitute of means for the support of their families. Steuben was much affected at their condition, and though he had no home, nor relative in this country, and a stranger in a land of poverty ; yet he endeavored to cheer up the desponding hearts around him, and wipe away the tears of sorrow and grief.

Seeing Colonel Cochrane standing alone, a picture of sorrow, he advanced towards him and said, " Cheer up, Colonel, better times will come." " I can stand it," replied the brave officer, " but my wife, and daughters, are in the garret of that wretched tavern, and I have no where to carry them ; no money to remove them." " Come, come," said the Baron, " I will pay my respects to your wife, and children, if you please," and immediately walked to the tavern. It was not long before the inmates of that lonely garret were made

happy. He emptied the entire contents of his purse on the table; and as he returned from the tavern, he walked towards the wharf, where he met with a poor negro soldier, whose wounds were yet unhealed, bitterly lamenting that he had not the means with which to go to New York. The Baron thrust his hand into his pocket, but finding his last cent had been left in the garret, he turned to an officer, standing by, and borrowed a dollar, which he placed in the negro's hand; then hailing a sloop, bound to New York, he set him on board. The poor negro hobbled on deck, and turning to the Baron with his streaming eyes, exclaimed, "God bless you, Master Baron." The old veteran brushed a tear from his eye, and turned away from the scene. It is said that Steuben was a believer in the Christian religion,—a constant attendant on religious worship, and a devoted friend to Washington. We have not heard that a monument is erected to his memory, though he rests from his toils beneath the soil of the land he aided to free.

#### MISCONDUCT OF LEE.

After the bill of pacification had passed respecting the paper money, General Howe took his departure for England, and was succeeded in command by Sir Henry Clinton, who prepared to evacuate Philadelphia, with the view of bringing his force to New York. The design was executed,

and the enemy marched through New Jersey with Washington on the rear, eager to strike a blow. He had so long been harassed by the necessity of perpetually retreating, that the idea of pursuit animated him to new exertions, and new vigor. At length the lion had turned on his pursuers. Every backward step Washington took, was like bending the bow the wrong way. It went against the grain. But he hoped Clinton would afford him an opportunity of attacking him in his march through New Jersey. His hope was realized. Henry Clinton directed his march towards Middletown, from whence he intended to embark his army for New York, and had now arrived at Monmouth, not far distant from the bay of Amboy. Another day's march would bring him to the heights of Middletown, where he would be unassailable. This was the last opportunity that might present itself, and Washington determined to avail himself of it.

The day came for the attack,—the 28th of June. It was a hot day, not a breath of air stirred; the sun shone out without a cloud,—the domestic herds had retired to the shade; and every animal sought shelter from the burning heat. The panting soldiers could hardly bear up against the burden of their arms; and the horses that drew the artillery were in a foam. At the dawn of day, the army of the enemy had taken up its line of march towards the heights of Middletown, and left the strong position at Monmouth. Washington, hearing a firing, presumed that Lee was now engaged

assaulting the rear of Clinton's army, according to his orders, and came rushing on to second him; when to his surprise, he found that officer in full retreat. "In the name of God," said Washington, "General Lee, what has caused this ill-timed prudence?" Lee gave him an insolent reply, when the hero rode on furiously, and called to his men who answered by three gallant cheers. He ordered them to charge the enemy, when they obeyed without a moment's hesitation. The royalists attempted to turn his flank, but were manfully repulsed. They turned in another direction, and met the valiant Greene, who drove them back with his cannon, and Wayne at the head of his army,—the British soon ceased to act on the offensive, and took post in their strong-hold. The enemy next decamped in the silence of the night, and were now so far on their way to the Heights, as to prevent all hopes of overtaking them. On this occasion Washington exposed himself to great danger, but seemed by his own heroism to make up for the misconduct of Lee.\*

#### WASHINGTON SPRING.

When Washington went into winter quarters in the vicinity of New York, his army erected tents in the highlands, and shielded themselves as well as they could from the cold and storms of the moun-

\* Spaulding's Life of Washington.

tains. The winter was severe, but the poor soldiers had become inured to hardships, and they were better prepared to endure the inconveniences of winter quarters. The remains of these huts are still to be seen in the highlands. There is also a spring from which Washington and his soldiers were accustomed to drink, now bearing his name. It gushes forth from the roots of a tree, in a small grove of oaks, growing just at the brink of a beautiful cascade, which falls into a crystal basin below, of about sixty or seventy feet. It is said, that the water is much cooler than that which flows from surrounding springs.

#### WYOMING.

There is one event which occurred during the war that is remembered with painful feelings. The massacre of the inhabitants in the beautiful valley of Wyoming. All who have attempted to sketch a picture of the scene, present it as a region of peace and happiness. The inhabitants were a quiet, peaceable community, and far from being hostile to any one. They took no part in war, and were as unprepared to enter the battle field, as they were to defend themselves. But in the dawn of the morning, as they lay in their quiet homes, a band of Indian savages, joined with white men, burst upon them, and massacred the whole community. They spared no age, or sex; burnt their houses, laid

waste their fields, plundered their property, and left the little settlement of Wyoming a desolate place. The scene was terrible, and will remain on the records of history as a stigma upon those who were engaged in such awful acts. The sad fate of Wyoming will be associated with the atrocious scenes which were connected with our suffering countrymen.

#### STORMING OF STONY POINT.

Stony Point was fortified by six hundred men, under Colonel Johnson; and it was one of the enemy's strong forts. Whenever there was to be any hard fighting, Washington selected Wayne, a gallant officer, to bear a prominent part in the field of action. There were a number of the enemy's posts at and about King's Ferry, which it was purposed by Washington to take in detail, rather than to run the risk of a failure by a general system of operation. On the night appointed for the attack, about twelve hundred of the little band of soldiers under Wayne, marched over a narrow causeway, which was thrown over the marsh, in perfect silence with muskets unloaded and bayonets fixed. They soon gained the post of the enemy, after having traveled from Sandy Beach, the distance of fourteen miles, over hills, and across morasses, along the shores of the Hudson. About half past eleven o'clock at night, Wayne began to prepare for the



action. He divided his soldiers into two parties, commanded by two Lieutenants, Gibbon and Knox. Wayne now moved his men silently forward under the restrictions that the "first man who should take his gun from his shoulder, or utter a word without orders, or attempt to retreat, should be put to death by the nearest officer."

At midnight they came in sight of the fortress, along whose ramparts the sentinel was making his accustomed rounds. Silently they moved on their way, and coming to a marsh, covered by a smooth sheet of water, the soldiers paused for a moment at the unexpected obstacle. But at the command "*forward,*" they plunged in, and passed silently along the pallisades. The noise alarmed the sentinels, and the rapid discharge of their muskets through the gloom, was followed by lights moving swiftly about upon the ramparts, and hurried shouts of "*To arms! to arms!*" and the roll of drums roused up the garrison from its dreams of security. The next moment the dark rock was one mass of flame, as the artillery and musketry opened along its sides, shedding a lurid light on the countenances of the men below. The ramparts were alive with soldiers; and the grape shot and balls fell in showers. Wayne led on one of his parties of one hundred and fifty men, headed by twenty forlorn men, who worked steadily in front of him, in the very blaze of the batteries, clearing away with their axes, while one after another dropped dead at his feet, until only three out of the twenty stood un-

harméd. Still these three worked on till a pass was made through the morass sufficient for the columns to pass, when Wayne summoned his soldiers to march on, and up the height, when a ball struck his head, and he fell backward amid the ranks. Instantly, resting on one knee, he exclaimed, "March on ! Carry me into the fort, for I will die at the head of my column." His soldiers bore him onward, over the living and the dead, smiting down the veteran ranks that come before them, till they reached the centre of the fort, and planted the flag of freedom on its walls. It was midnight, and a death-like silence soon followed the roar of cannon and guns. Wayne's wound in the head was not mortal ; he lived to wear the laurels which the nation placed on his brow. A gold medal was presented him by Congress, for his skill and bravery in taking Stony Point.\* The loss of the enemy was sixty-three killed, and over five hundred prisoners taken.

#### BATTLE AT GERMANTOWN.

On the third of October, at seven o'clock in the evening, in the midst of a dark and heavy fog, the American columns marched rapidly towards Germantown. After marching all night, they reached the outskirts of the town, when the columns filed

\* Washington and His Generals.—*Headley*.

off to their respective stations. Sullivan and Wayne, accompanied by Washington in person, took the central position of the army; while Armstrong fell on the enemy's left and rear. Greene moved down on the right wing. Smallwood, and Freeman marched along the old York road, upon the right flank. As the day dawned, after a march of fourteen miles, drums began to beat, the pickets fired their guns in alarm, and fled back to camp. The sound of "To arms! To arms!" together with the flying horsemen, and the roar of cannon, opened the battle. Wayne rode gallantly on at the head of his column, cheering on his men, amidst dense fog, which enveloped the whole field of action. A ball struck him in the foot, another grazed his head, a third and fourth smote his horse in the head, and flank, and he sunk to the earth. Springing to his feet, he shouted "*forward!*" and pressing on, routed the enemy before him in utter confusion. Amidst smoke of musketry, mingling in dark columns with the fog, the white steed of Washington was seen galloping through the gloom, in the midst of the heaviest volleys. It is said, that "his lofty form towered on the sight, as the cloud of smoke opened for a moment around him." A few hours of fierce action, and the scene closed, with an equal loss on both sides.

Two days after the battle, the noble roan which Wayne supposed was dead on the field, walked leisurely into camp, and there recognized his master

## BATTLE OF COWPENS.

At the battle of Cowpens, Morgan, with less than a thousand men, began to retire, but Tarlton with eleven hundred men induced him to take a stand at Broad River, where he divided his troops into two divisions, while Tarlton formed his columns into two lines, with the artillery in the centre, and the cavalry on either flank. After a single fire, the first American line gave way, and the enemy pressed forward upon the next. At this moment there was every evidence of a complete victory by the British forces. It was a critical moment. But Washington, who watched calmly every movement, ordered the bugler to sound the charge, and placing himself at the head of his columns, ordered them to follow. On they went with the hero, at command, who galloped upon the infantry, making his way through their broken ranks, till the British cavalry retreated in confusion, before the fierce onset, and the battle was restored.

## HARD FARE.

Francis Marion was a brave and valuable officer under Washington. The following anecdote is related of him by an old fellow soldier, many years ago :—

While occupying one of his fastnesses in the

midst of a swamp, a British officer with a flag, proposing an exchange of prisoners, was one day brought blindfold to his camp. The exploits of Marion had made his name now greatly known, and the officer felt no little curiosity to look at this invisible warrior, who was so often felt but never seen. On removing the bandage from his eyes, he was presented to a man, dressed in a homespun coat, that bore evidence of flood and field, and the rest of his garments were much the worse for wear. "I come," said the officer, "with a message for General Marion." "I am he," said Marion; "and these are my soldiers."

The officer looked around, and saw a parcel of rough, half clad men, some roasting sweet potatoes, others resting on their dark muskets, and others asleep, with logs for their pillows. The business being settled, the officer was about to depart, when Marion pressed him to stop and dine. Not seeing any symptoms of dinner, he rather took the invitation in jest; but on being urged, curiosity, as well as hunger, prompted him to accept. The table was set, which was a clean piece of pine bark, on the ground. On this was placed some sweet potatoes raked from the ashes. These constituted Marion's breakfasts, dinners and suppers, for a long time, while he camped in the swamps of South Carolina. The British officer learned in reply to various questions, that Marion and his soldiers were serving without pay, living without quarters, sometimes half clothed, at others, half starved, and expressed

his pity for their situation. Marion replied, “ *Pity not me,—I am happier than you ; for I am fighting to free, while you are striving to enslave your countrymen.* When I am hungry, I comfort myself with the hope that I am doing something for my fellow creatures ; when I am cold and wet, I warm myself with the consciousness that I am suffering for my country ; and when the cause in which I am engaged, and to which I have pledged my life, seems shrouded in gloom and despair, I still recollect that there is yet virtue in man, and justice in his Maker.”

The British soldier made no reply, but returning to his commander, said,—“ Sir, I have seen an American General ; his officers and soldiers serving without pay ; without shelter ; without clothing ; without any other food than roots and water, —and they are enduring all these for *Liberty!* What chance have we for subduing a country with such men for her defenders ? ” He soon after gave up his commission, and retired from the service.

#### PRIVATIONS IN THE REVOLUTION.

The following affecting incident is related by Mrs. Sigourney, which illustrates the privations sustained by women during the Revolution :—

“ A good and hoary headed man, who had passed the limits of four-score, once said to me, ‘ My father was in the army during the whole eight

years of the war ; at first, as a common soldier, afterwards as an officer. My mother had the sole charge of us four little ones. Our house was a poor one, and far from neighbors. I have a keen remembrance of the terrible cold of some of the winters. The snow lay so deep and long, that it was difficult to cut or draw fuel from the woods, and to get our corn to mill, when we had any. My mother was the possessor of a coffee mill. In that she ground wheat, and made coarse bread, which we ate, and were thankful. It was not always that we could be allowed as much, even of this, as our keen appetites craved. Many was the time that we have gone to bed, with only a drink of water for our supper, in which a little molasses had been mingled. We patiently received it, for we knew our mother did as well for us as she could, and hoped to have something better in the morning. She was never heard to repine ; and young as we were, we tried to make her loving spirit and heavenly trust, our example.

‘ When my father was permitted to come home, his stay was short, and he had not much to leave us, for the pay of those who achieved our liberties, was irregularly rendered. Yet when he went, my mother ever bade him farewell with a cheerful face, and not to be anxious about his children, for she would watch over them night and day, and God would take care of the families of those who went forth to defend the righteous cause of their country. Sometimes we wondered that she did not mention

the cold weather, or our short meals, or her hard work, that we little ones might be clothed, and fed, and taught. But she would not weaken his hands, or sadden his heart; for she said, "a soldier's lot was harder than all." We saw that she never complained, but always kept in heart a sweet hope, like a well of living water. Every night ere we slept, and every morning when we arose, we lifted our little hands for God's blessing on our absent father, and our endangered country.' "

#### WOMAN'S PATRIOTISM.

During the long and tedious war, the women of the United States exhibited many instances of heroic fortitude, and great self-denial, for the sake of liberty. The privations which they suffered, from fields laid waste, and gardens robbed,—the dangers they encountered, and the insults they endured in their unprotected homes, and while their fathers, husbands, and sons were absent on the field of battle, can never be described. Often did they suffer their houses to be burned over their heads, their persons to be insulted, and their lives to hang by a single hair, on the ferocious enmity of a drunken soldier, rather than tell where their defenders were hid, or give any information serviceable to the enemy. They often sacrificed their treasures, and the comforts of life to the army. At one time the ladies of Philadelphia came forward,



and made large donations of money and effects of their industry for the relief of the suffering soldiers.

#### DISAFFECTION OF SOLDIERS.

When the army quartered in New Jersey, and among the highlands of the Hudson, in 1781, the fortitude and patience of soldiers was very nearly exhausted. Short allowance in food, and no pay, led many of them to determine no longer to fight for their freedom. On the first of January, the soldiers of Pennsylvania, to the number of thirteen hundred, turned out under arms, with the resolution to march to Congress, and demand redress for their wrongs, and unless it was promptly granted, declared they would quit the field, and go to their homes. They asked an immediate discharge to all who had served three years, payment of all arrearages in hard money to all who should choose to return to duty. They had received promises, but now demanded their fulfillment. This move was in consequence of severe hardships, and long suffering. General Wayne was their commander, and when he threatened them with the pistol, they cried out, "We love and respect you General, but if you fire, you are a dead man. We are not going to desert to the enemy. Were he in sight, you would see us fight under your orders in defence of our country. *We love liberty, but we cannot starve.*" In this gloomy time, when deserting soldiers might

well be justified, on account of their sufferings; and when the cause of freedom was at stake, we cannot but admire the wisdom, genius and decision of Washington, in managing affairs in this time of peril and darkness.

#### ARMY AT VALLEY FORGE.

Valley Forge is about six miles above Norristown, in Pennsylvania, on the west side of the Schuylkill river, and about twenty miles from Philadelphia. It is a deep rugged hollow, at the mouth of Valley Creek, from which, and from an ancient forge established there, it takes its name. On the mountain sides of this wild spot, Washington fixed the camp of the American Army in 1777-78; consisting of eleven thousand soldiers. It was in the latter part of December, when they stacked their arms on the frozen soil, and began to build their huts to shelter them from the severe cold. With feet bare, cut by the frozen ground, they had marched to this place for repose, refreshment and clothing,—the remainder of a routed army, ragged and hungry. Weary and worn, they lay down on the bleak hill side, with but little covering to their famishing bodies. They commenced erecting their rough log cabins, in which they passed through a winter's sufferings unparalleled in the history of the whole campaign. It was so cold that they often slept sitting up around their fires. Washington

felt deeply for the sufferings of his brave soldiers, as his letter to Congress will show,—“*I feel*,” he said, “for them, and from my soul, I pity those miseries, which it is neither in my power to relieve or prevent.”

After Congress provided them with clothing, and food, Washington was enabled to build a log cabin for a dining-room, which his wife in a letter to a friend, says, “*made our quarters a little more comfortable.\**” It was at this season of suffering and privation, when the enemy lay only within a day’s march, that we find,—

#### WASHINGTON AT PRAYER.

While the superior army of British soldiers, well disciplined, and well furnished, occupied the dwellings of the neighboring city, the American army was suffering at Valley Forge, from the cold of an inclement winter. Our country had been wasted by the enemy, and many of the friends of liberty had become disheartened, in consequence of the gloomy aspect which pervaded the American cause. In this hour of darkness and danger, Washington repaired to a sequestered spot, where he thought himself alone with God, and there, in fervent supplication, laid the cause of his country before the

\* When Steuben arrived at Valley Forge, he said, “that there was not a commander in Europe, whose troops were so destitute, and suffering, as ours together, for a single week.”

throne of heaven. By this act of pure devotion, he sought to connect the cause of liberty with the throne of justice, and to ask for wisdom to guide his own mind, and to direct his cause in behalf of an injured country. His frequent retirement to this grove, attracted the curiosity of one who was an enemy to the cause he espoused, and he sought to defeat his plans. He silently followed Washington to the spot, and saw him kneel on the cold ground, and solemnly invoke the blessing of God upon his country. He returned directly to his party, and exclaimed, "*Our cause is lost*,—Washington is at prayer!"

Another anecdote is related of Washington of a similar character, and as occurring at the same time, while the camp was quartered at Valley Forge. "A Quaker by the name of Potts, of a respectable family, had occasion to pass through the woods near head-quarters. In his way through the grove, he heard the sound of a voice, which appeared like the voice of one speaking in earnest. As he approached the spot with a cautious step, he saw in a secluded bower of ancient oaks, Washington on his knees in prayer. The *Friend* continued there till the General closed his prayer, and arose from his knees;—then returning to his house, called to his wife, "Sarah, my dear Sarah, all's well! all's well! George Washington will yet prevail." "What's the matter, Isaac?" she replied, "thee seems moved." "Well, if I seem moved,

'tis no more than what I really am. I have this day seen what I never expected. Thee knows what I always thought, that the sword and the gospel were utterly inconsistent; and that no man could be a soldier and a Christian at the same time; but Washington has this day convinced me of my mistake."\*

#### FAITH IN GOD.

Washington was not accustomed to argue points of religious faith, but on one occasion, in reply to a gentleman who expressed doubts on the subject, he expressed himself as follows:—

“It is impossible to account for the creation of the Universe without the agency of a Supreme Being. It is impossible to govern the Universe without the aid of a Supreme Being. It is impossible to reason, without arriving at a Supreme Being. Religion is as necessary to reason, as reason is to religion. The one cannot exist without the other. A reasoning being would lose his reason in attempting to account for the great phenomena of nature, had he not a Supreme Being to refer to; and well has it been said, ‘that if there had been no God, mankind would have been obliged to imagine one.’”

\* Weem's Life of Washington.

## ENDURANCE.

It is said that the battle at Long Island was the most unskillful one during the whole war. It was fought, however, against the wish of Washington, but the responsibility fell on him. But in conducting the retreat to Harlaem, he displayed the skill which is equalled by no General in War. Here he exhibited great endurance. For forty-eight hours without closing his eyes, he was in the saddle, riding through the ranks, ordering the march, superintending every operation, and with collected energy cheering on the wearied soldiers of the army. For two days and nights he watched every movement, in sight of the enemy. After retreating to Harlaem Heights, the enemy's ships compelled him to retire to White Plains, where, surrounded by the whole British force, an army of veteran soldiers, and headed by Sir William Howe, he waited the attack of the enemy. But Howe seeing the commander he had to face, left him for other posts not so well defended.

## A WISE MOVE.

About the time when the enlistment of a portion of the army was expiring, Washington prevailed on them to remain a few weeks longer, as he was then waiting the approach of the army under Lord Corn-

wallis. He knew that his own forces were feeble, compared with the army of Cornwallis.

The roar of the artillery along the banks of the Assampink, closed as the darkness of night set in. A disastrous battle to the Americans seemed inevitable the next day. That night Washington gazed on the watch-fires of the enemy, and kept his own burning, as he thought of the morrow. In the early part of the night he ordered his men to dig an entrenchment, to deceive the enemy. At twelve o'clock, in the darkness of the night, he began a noiseless march to Princeton. When the morning came, Cornwallis to his surprise, heard the roar of cannon at Princeton. Here Washington broke up three regiments, and pursued the fugitives before him to Kingston, followed by Cornwallis, whose troops were close upon him. His soldiers had been thirty-six hours without sleep, and much of the time in battle. He now retired to Morristown for winter quarters, where in a short time he saw every part of the Jerseys cleared of the enemy excepting Brunswick, and Amboy. In three weeks he won two victories, and drove the enemy from every post they had taken on the Delaware. The British Generals were amazed at their defeat, while Europe praised the skill and genius of Washington, giving him the name of "*American Fabius*."

In this scene it is said that Sir William Erskine urged Cornwallis to an immediate attack before the night of Washington's retreat to Princeton. "Now is the time," said he, "to make sure of Washing-

ton,—our troops are hungry.” Said the other, “He and his tatterdemalions are in my power. They cannot escape to-night. Tomorrow at break of day, I will attack them, and the rising sun shall see the end of rebellion.” “My Lord,” replied Sir William, “Washington will not be there tomorrow at day-break.” True enough; the morning dawned, and nothing remained on the south bank of the Assampink, but the expiring watch-fires of the night. With surprise, the royal General asked, “Where can Washington be gone?”\*

#### THE HESSIANS.

The Hessians came to this country full of prejudices against Americans, as they were told that they could expect no quarters from Americans, so they gave none. History records many instances of cruelty and robbery on their part. When they were captured at Princeton, instead of meeting with revenge, they were treated with kindness. From this time they began to see in whose service they had been engaged,—their feelings were enlisted in the cause of liberty, and they took every opportunity for deserting their side. But few who came over ever returned, and those who survived, remained with us, and settled down in the enjoyment of those blessings which they came to take from us.

\* Paulding's Life of Washington.



By this means of kindness, and humanity, Washington was enabled to make his enemies to be at peace with him.

#### WASHINGTON ON THE DELAWARE SHORE.

Just before the battle of Princeton, and Trenton, General Stark, somewhat impatient at the prudent and cautious course pursued by Washington, being full of energy and action, he bluntly addressed the commander thus,—“ You have depended a long time on spades and pickaxes, but if you wish ever to establish the independence of the country, you must rely on fire-arms.” Washington replied, “ Tomorrow we march on Trenton, and I have appointed you to command the advance guard of the right wing.” The next day, the twenty-fifth of December, just at dusk, Washington stood with a whip in his hand, on the banks of the Delaware. His horse, saddled and bridled, stood near him, and all was on the move about him,—the rumbling of artillery wagons, the sounds of marching men, and hasty orders, betokened the speedy preparations for battle. The Delaware rolled along, bearing on its surface the broken ice, and the night came on, cold and stormy. As Washington stood watching these movements, it is said, “ there stole over his majestic countenance a look of inexpressible solemnity.” The crisis had come,—filled with some degree of forebodings, yet with firm resolve

he stood there waiting for the time of *onset*. "As he thus stood, wrapped in thought, Wilkinson approached him with a letter from Gates. This roused him for a moment, and fixing on the officer with a firm look, he exclaimed, "*What a time is this to hand me letters!*" The events of that hour, and the possible failure in the approaching conflict, absorbed his whole soul. It was no time for reading letters.\*

#### MOVEMENT OF A NIGHT.

Washington stood on the shore of the Delaware through the cold night of December, with a calm but resolute purpose, watching his distracted army, as they crossed the icy stream, and urging on his wearied soldiers, till four o'clock in the morning. Knox stood on the opposite shore, and by his stentorian voice, indicated the point where the army was to land in the boats, which conveyed them across the river. The plan was to enter Trenton at different points. Sullivan headed one column along the river road, while Washington and Greene led the other in the road a short distance from the shore. It was dark, and a storm of snow drove full in their faces, soaking the soldiers' clothes, and rendering their guns unfit for use. Sullivan felt disheartened, and dispatched an aid to Washington

\* Washington and His Generals.—*Headley*.

with the intelligence of his despondency. Washington returned the reply, "*Advance and charge!*" Captain Forest rode by the side of Washington, when on seeing a countryman chopping wood, in front of his door, just as daylight dawned, asked, "*where the Hessian picket lay?*" He replied, "I do not know." "You may tell," said Forest, "for it is Washington who addresses you." The man dropped his axe, and lifting his hands, exclaimed, "*God bless you, Sir,*" and then pointed to the house near by a tree where the picket lay.

## TRENTON TAKEN.

As the army advanced towards Trenton, Washington rode in front, where the first volley of shot must fall. His officers saw his dangerous position, and entreated him to fall back and take a position of greater security. But he took no notice of their entreaties, but advanced sternly on amidst the storm, ordering the guns to be unlimbered, and the whole column to advance. At this moment Sullivan's division charged on the enemy, and Stark had entered the streets and aroused the Hessians from their morning dreams. Washington's form was enveloped in smoke, and the flying horsemen rushed through the streets in every direction. The enemy just then wheeled two cannon into the street, in breast of the column Washington was advancing. They fired, and young Monroe, after-

wards President of the United States, and a Captain Washington, took the pieces charged to the muzzle, and when the smoke arose in the air, these two gallant officers were both seen reclining in the arms of their soldiers, though not mortally wounded. Washington had just ordered his column to advance more rapidly, when one of his officers cried out, "their flags are struck." Looking up in surprise, he exclaimed, "*Struck! so they are!*" and spurring his charger, rushed on, and grasping the hand of one of his officers, exclaimed, "*This is a glorious day for our country.*" He re-crossed the Delaware the same day, and returned to his camp with the army, having taken a thousand prisoners, six brass field pieces, and a thousand stand of arms.

#### LOVE OF LIBERTY.

When the Stamp Act began to be enforced, Washington took strong and decided ground with the colonies against the mother country, and was found among the first to lift his voice in defence of liberty. Guarding it with a jealous eye, he was ever ready to hazard his own life in its behalf. He deprecated the use of arms, and regarded steel weapons as the last means to be employed in the cause of liberty; yet when freedom was at stake, he says, "no man should scruple, or hesitate a moment to use arms in defence of so valuable a blessing."

In 1774, the House of Burgesses appointed a day of fasting and prayer, in sympathy with the people of Boston, whose port had been closed by an Act of Parliament. We find in Washington's private diary, "*I went to church and fasted all day.*" This shows how the great and precious boon of freedom was cherished in the heart of Washington. When he was elected a delegate to the first Congress, his calm but resolute voice was heard in favor of freedom at all hazards. No one can read the history of his later years, without perceiving his preference for the song of the husbandman amid the blessings of peace and plenty, to the roll of the drum, and the roar of cannon in the field of battle.

#### THE LIBERTY TREE.

Between the years 1760, and 1776, were enacted important scenes which preceded and attended the first steps of the Revolution. Boston was the principal place of these events. It appears from history, that the appointment of Andrew Oliver, as distributor of Stamps for Massachusetts, after the passage of the Stamp Act, in 1765, was the cause of the first popular outbreak of feeling, in reference to liberty. An effigy of Mr. Oliver, and a boot, (the emblem of Lord Bute), with Satan peeping out of it, besides other satirical emblems, were found in the morning, hanging on a large elm tree

at the head of Essex street. The Sheriff was ordered by the Lieutenant Governor to remove the effigy, but his officers reported that it could not be done without peril of their lives. Much excitement prevailed, and a building intended, as was supposed, for a Stamp Office, was entirely demolished. The next day the houses of Mr. Storey, and Hallowell were attacked, and injured. This gave origin to the "Liberty Tree."

The house of the Lieutenant Governor was attacked, and much property destroyed; and many valuable articles were carried away, among which were £1,000 sterling in specie, besides a large quantity of family plate. The next day the streets were found scattered with money, plate, gold rings, &c. A town meeting was held the next day, when the citizens expressed their indignity at these proceedings, and voted for such measures as would tend to suppress all such violent acts in future.

In the early part of December, Mr. Oliver was summoned to appear under the Liberty Tree, and in the presence of the principal inhabitants of the town, make a public resignation of his office as Stamp distributor. The Liberty Tree was a sort of idol with Bostonians, and a great ornament to the street. In the winter of 1775-6, it was cut down by the British soldiers, while they had possession of the city, and converted to fuel.

When information of the repeal of the Stamp Act reached Boston, on the 16th of May, the inhabitants were as active in the demonstrations of

their joy, as they had been before of their resentment. The bells were rung, and cannon fired under the Liberty Tree, and in other parts of the town. The 19th of March was fixed for a day of general rejoicing. The bell of Dr. Byles' church, nearest to the Liberty Tree, was rung at one o'clock in the morning, and soon answered by other bells of the city. The Liberty Tree was decorated with flags, and colors were displayed from the houses. The whole town was illuminated, and sermons preached from several pulpits on succeeding days.\*

#### COUNT DONOP.

Count Donop was mortally wounded, and taken prisoner in the encounter which took place at Red Bank, near Philadelphia. The Americans treated him with the kindest attentions, and Washington sent him a note, expressing his sympathy. This expression of kindness on the part of the Americans, completely overcome the dying soldier, and brought tears in his eyes. He said to Washington's messenger, "Tell him that I never expect to rise from my bed, but if I should, my first act shall be to thank him in person." He died regretting the service in which he had embarked against a people so humane.

\* Sketches of Boston.

## DEATH OF COLONEL CUSTIS.

Colonel Custis had associated himself with Washington, as one of the Aids-de-Camp, and had endeared himself to him in his official relations through the whole of the American Revolution, During the siege of Yorktown, and while engaged in his official duties, he was seized with the fever then raging in the British camp. After the surrender of Lord Cornwallis, he was removed from the field, and put under the care of Dr. Craik, chief of the American Medical Staff, at Elthan. Mrs. Washington was then at Mount Vernon, and Colonel Custis was her only remaining child. As soon as the news reached her of his alarming condition, she hastened to his bed side. Washington was affectionately attached to him, and hearing of his increasing sickness, and danger, privately left the camp before Yorktown, while it rang with shouts of victory ; and attended by a single officer, rode with all speed to Elthan. On his arrival he was met by Dr. Craik, when he immediately inquired if there was any reason to hope for the Colonel's recovery. At that moment friends were around the bed of the expiring son. On being informed that he was nearly gone, the General retired to a solitary apartment, threw himself upon a couch, almost overcome with sorrow of heart. When death had concluded the scene, Washington and his now childless wife, mingled their tears



together for a long time, when the duties of his office called him to the camp, and he left the weeping mother alone with her God.

#### NELSON AND HIS HOUSE.

Nelson who commanded the Virginia militia was a gallant officer, and bore his part with a brave hand in the defence of Liberty. He was a bright example of disinterested patriotism. He owned a very fine house in York, which was occupied by the enemy. Seeing, that from a delicate consideration for his interests, the American artillerists avoided directing their pieces to that house where the enemy were, he proclaimed a reward of a guinea for every shot that should be lodged in his house. The Americans soon riddled it with balls, when the British soldiers finding it too warm for their quarters, abandoned it.

#### MRS. CALDWELL'S DEATH.

The following circumstances deserve a notice, because at the time it made a deep impression. It was one of those melancholy events which is not authorized in war. During a skirmish at Springfield, the settlement at Connecticut Farms was reduced to ashes. Mrs. Caldwell, the wife of the clergyman of the village, had been induced to

remain in her house under the persuasion that her presence might protect it from pillage, and that her person could not be endangered, as Col. Dayton, who commanded the militia, determined not to stop in the settlement. While sitting in the midst of her children, with a babe in her arms, a soldier discharged his musket at her. She received the ball in her bosom and instantly expired.

#### WASHINGTON IN DANGER.

Washington was often in great danger when in the field of action. At one time, during a sharp conflict with the British, Washington ordered his men not to fire a pistol, but to charge the cavalry with drawn swords. Followed by Col. Howard, he pressed on until a great part of the infantry had surrendered. In this action an anecdote of the General is related by Marshall, as follows. "In the eagerness of pursuit, Washington advanced near thirty yards in front of his regiment. Three British officers observing this, wheeled about and made a charge upon him. The officer on the right aimed a blow to cut him down, just as an American soldier came up, who intercepted the blow by disabling his sword arm. The officer on the left was about to make a stroke at him at the same instant, when a waiter, too small to wield a sword, saved him by wounding the officer with a ball from a pistol. At this moment the officer in the centre, who was be-

lieved to be Tarlton, made a thrust at him which he parried : upon this the officer retreated a few paces, and then discharged a pistol at him, which only wounded his horse."

#### THE PINE CANNON.

A party of the British soldiers being quartered at Rugley's Farm, within thirteen miles of Camden, Col. Washington found them posted in a logged barn, strongly secured by abattis and inaccessible to cavalry. Force being of no avail he resorted to the following stratagem. Having painted the trunk of a pine tree and mounted it on a carriage, so as to resemble a field-piece, he paraded it in front of the enemy and demanded a surrender. The whole party, consisting of one hundred and twelve men, with Col. Rugley at their head, alarmed at the prospect of a cannonade, surrendered themselves prisoners of war.\*

#### AN INCIDENT AT GUILFORD.

After passing through the guards into the cleared ground, Washington, who led the way, perceived an officer, surrounded by several persons, who ap-

\* Marshall's Life of Washington.

peared to be aids-de-camp. Believing him to be Lord Cornwallis, he rushed forward in hope of making him prisoner, but was arrested by an accident. His cap fell from his head, and, as he leaped to the ground to recover it, the officer leading the columns was shot through the body, and rendered incapable of managing his horse. The animal wheeled round with his rider and galloped off the field. He was followed by all the cavalry who supposed this movement had been directed.

#### SURRENDER OF CORNWALLIS.

Cornwallis had taken his position at York, a small town at the northern verge of the peninsula, between York and James River, about eight miles wide. It occupied the summit of a high bank on the south side of the noble stream, the scene of "daring deeds." Here the British chief stationed his army with the most sanguine hopes of success, until seeing himself besieged with a superior army, new batteries raised against him on all sides, and his own defences falling one after another, he ceased all further operations. At this time Cornwallis' army consisted of 7000 men, with an immense train of artillery—upwards of 160 pieces of cannon. The very spot where the British army yielded the contest, and laid down their arms, is still pointed out. It is said that the scene itself was grand and affecting. The subdued soldiers

marched to the spot in silence, and were received in the same manner by the Americans and French, who lined the path through which they passed. Not a word was uttered, nor a smile seen at the time, indicative of victory ; all seemed struck with the contrast so often presented in the changes of position in life. Cornwallis was the boasted conqueror of the South—the Hero of Britain. The time had come for him to deliver up his sword to the Congress of America. All eyes were looking for him to perform the office, but he came not. General O'Hara was his substitute. The surrender was made on the 19th of October, 1781. And memorable will the plain of York be in the history of our country, where the second British Army laid down its arms, and where the contest for liberty was finally closed.

#### A JOYOUS SCENE.

The surrender of Cornwallis was followed by demonstrations of joy and thanksgiving. All officers and soldiers under arrest were released and pardoned, and, by the direction of Washington, the soldiers bent the knee, and with united voice offered thanks to God for victory—for winning the crown of Freedom for which they had patiently suffered. The scene is described by Paulding as follows.

“At the dead of the night, a watchman in the streets of Philadelphia was heard to cry out, ‘*Past*

twelve o'clock, and a pleasant morning—Cornwallis is taken." All but the dead, resting in their last sleep, awoke at this glorious annunciation. The city became alive at midnight; the candles were lighted, and persons might be seen flitting past the windows, or pushing them up to hear the sound repeated, lest it should have been nothing but a dream. The citizens ran through the streets to inquire into the truth—they shook hands, they embraced each other, and they wept for joy. None slept again that night; and the dawn of the morning, which brought new confirmations of the happy tidings, shone on one of the most exulting cities that ever basked in the sunshine of joy. The hour of freedom was now come, and the souls of the people expanded with joy. For years they had stared misery in the face and suffered in its iron grasp. They had reaped many harvests of bitterness, and now they expected to reap those of *peace* and *plenty*. There was but one single united voice throughout the whole land, and that shouted the name of Washington, the Deliverer of his country."

The following is from an English paper published in 1777.

"Several gentlemen of Nottingham received letters by the coach, with an account of a total defeat of General Washington's army in America, obtained by his Majesty's forces under General Sir William Howe. Soon after, this news was conveyed to several gentlemen who were regaling themselves at

different public houses in the town, and, in consequence of the above interesting and important intelligence arriving, the bells began to ring about one o'clock in the morning, and continued all Tuesday and the day following, with but very little intermission. At intervals several young men assembled themselves together on this joyful occasion, each armed with a gun, and paraded the streets, frequently discharging the same, which was immediately re-echoed with uncommon shouts of applause. The populace procured an ass on which they erected a figure representing General Washington, dressed in a military character, which was repeatedly fired, and after that committed to the flames."\*

#### WASHINGTON'S INFLUENCE.

After the excitement of the war was over, the soldiers of the revolution began to think of themselves. They felt that Congress had neglected their claims, and nothing as yet had been done to allay their fears or supply their wants. At this time the troops were assembled at Newburg, when a paper, without name, was circulated among them, inviting a meeting of the General and the field officers for the purpose of consulting measures, by which they might procure redress for their grievances. The paper contained an address well calcu-

\* Nottingham Date Book, No. 8.

lated to do mischief. It plead the claims of the soldiers, the neglect of Congress, and set forth the condition of the officers and soldiers, if they permitted them to be sent home as they were. The whole address was an eloquent production and was well designed to bring irritated soldiers to act. A civil war was apparently at hand; and it was a period when the patriotism and integrity of Washington was fairly and severely tested. It was anticipated that he would give his influence in favor of the writer, and even become the Leader of the troops in another war. He saw and felt his position—the demands of the army were just, and the sentiment of the people was in their favor. They had nobly won the prize of freedom for their country, and they only asked what justice claimed.

In meeting this crisis of the army, Washington displayed his wisdom. He issued a general order for a meeting of the officers, and soldiers, which was to take place previous to the one designated in the anonymous address. And from the time of issuing the order to the day of the meeting, he was employed in soothing the feelings of the impatient soldiers, and in preparing the way for different measures. He met individual officers alone, and never was the influence of character and example more nobly exemplified than on these occasions. It is said that “the officers came out of his room with traces of tears on their cheeks, and others seemed bowed down by the weight of irresistible conviction.” Washington’s influence was felt,—his ad-



vice was a word in season ; and in no act of his career, did he confer a higher favor on his country, or exhibit a higher proof of virtuous self-denial.

#### ELECTED PRESIDENT.

On the 4th of March, 1789, Washington was chosen President of the United States, but in consequence of some delay he was not officially notified until the 14th of April. In a letter to General Knox, he expressed his feelings in reference to the delay as follows:—

“ As to myself, the delay may be compared to a reprieve ; for in confidence I tell you, (with the world, it would obtain little credit) that my movements toward the chair of Government will be accompanied by feelings, not unlike those of a culprit going to the place of execution,—so unwilling am I in the evening of a life, consumed in public business, to quit my peaceful abode for an ocean of difficulties, without the competency of political skill and inclination, which is necessary to manage the helm. I am sensible that I am embarking with the voice of the people, and a good name of my own, on this voyage, and what returns will be made for them, Heaven alone can foretell. Integrity and firmness are all I can promise,—these, be the voyage long or short, shall never forsake me, though I may be deserted by all men ; for of the

consolations to be derived from these, the world cannot deprive me."

When Washington, after his election, passed from Mount Vernon to New York, where Congress was in session, his pathway was thronged with the people, ever ready to express their gratitude for his devoted services to their country. Men women and children lined the roads, and flocked to the windows to see him pass. The women wept for joy, and the children cried out, "God save Washington." In fact, one continued shout followed him from Mount Vernon to the mouth of the Hudson.

#### RECEPTION AT TRENTON.

The reception of George Washington at Trenton, is a matter of history, and will never be forgotten by the people. It was planned by the daughters of freedom,—by those who knew well how to appreciate the blessings of Liberty. When the hopes of the people were nearly gone, Washington performed one of those prompt and daring feats which, for a time, rejoiced the hearts of the matrons of Trenton, and revived the drooping spirits of the people. When he arrived at the bridge over the Assumpink, which flows near the city, and on whose banks he lay encamped the night previous to his march on Princeton, his eye saw the beautiful arch of evergreens and flowers, gracefully pre-

pared by the fair maidens of Trenton, bearing this inscription :—

December 26, 1776.

“THE HERO, WHO DEFENDED THE MOTHERS,  
WILL PROTECT THE DAUGHTERS.”

At the end of the bridge were collected hundreds of little girls dressed in white, with beautiful wreaths around their heads, and with baskets of flowers in their hands. Beyond these stood the grown up daughters, and in the rear, the fathers and mothers of '76. As the Hero approached them, hundreds of voices sent up their song of joyful welcome, and as the chorus,—

“Strew your hero's way with flowers,”

died away, they scattered his path with flowers. Washington was a firm man, but now his mouth was observed to quiver; and that eye which had looked on storms, and witnessed scenes of suffering unmoved, now glistened with tears; and as he drew his hat from his head, the trembling hand refused to do its office. The chieftain moved onward through the ranks, overcome by the grateful emotions of the people, till coming to Elizabeth-town Point, where an elegant barge, manned by thirteen pilots, was waiting to receive him. As he entered the barge, the shores echoed with pealing

trumpets and martial music, as the boat parted from the shore, and moved away under a splendid escort.

#### RECEPTION AT NEW YORK.

As the boat manned with pilots passed over the waters of New York Bay, a gay scene was presented to the eye. Vessels adorned with flags, and fluttering with ribbons, were seen on every side, while others hovered around the barge of Washington, singing songs of victory, and playing triumphant strains in honor to his name. As he stepped on shore, the artillery announced his landing, and one loud, "*Long live Washington,*" rent the air.

A military escort was appointed to attend him, and when the officer announced his commission, Washington replied, "I require no guard, but the affections of the people," and declined their attendance. The military train, however, escorted him to the house of his abode, which he entered amidst the waving of flags and music of trumpets. On the 13th day of April, 1789, he took the oath, and entered on the office of President of the United States. The oath was administered in the Balcony of the old Federal Hall, in New York, by the Chancellor of State, and the Bible on which it was sworn, is still preserved as a sacred relic.

## FAREWELL TO PUBLIC LIFE.

Washington having served his country in the capacity of President for the term of eight years, and in this important trust, met with the universal approbation of a free people, he bade adieu to public life on the 4th of March, 1797. His successor was Mr. Adams, and he waited in Philadelphia just long enough to pay a tribute of respect to him, who by the choice of the people had become the Chief Magistrate of the United States. It is recorded of Washington, that he entered the Senate Chamber as a private citizen, and while all eyes were fixed upon him,—perhaps for the last time, he took the hand of the new President, wishing that his administration might prove as happy for himself, as for his country; then bowing to the assembly, retired, unattended as he came. Having left the Presidential chair, he repaired to Mount Vernon, to spend the last years of his honored life,—followed by the blessings of a free and grateful people. He was never after called into action; his closing years were happily and usefully spent in the bosom of domestic enjoyments, and rural life. While here in the quiet repose of Mount Vernon, he was visited by persons from all quarters of the world. They came to see the man who had delivered a nation from bondage, and who finally left it in possession of the crown of freedom he had won.

## RESPECT TO WASHINGTON.

The merchants of Philadelphia, to show their respect for Washington, who had served his country in the administration of Government for eight years, prepared a splendid banquet to which the General and officers in rank in the late army, and many persons of distinction were invited. It was given in the rotunda, and is thus described :—

“ Upon entering the area, the General was conducted to his seat. On a signal given, music played Washington’s march, and a scene which represented simple objects in the rear of the principal seat, was drawn up, and discovered emblematical painting; the principal was a female figure large as life, representing America, seated on an elevation composed of sixteen marble steps. At her left side stood the federal shield, and eagle; and at her feet lay the cornucopiæ; in her right hand she held the Indian calmut of peace, supporting the cap of liberty; in the perspective appeared the temple of fame; and on her left hand an altar dedicated to public gratitude, upon which incense was burning. In her left hand she held a scroll, inscribed valedictory; and at the foot of the altar lay a plumed helmet and sword, from which a figure of Washington large as life appeared, retiring down the steps, pointing with his right hand to the emblems of power which he had resigned, and with his left to a beautiful landscape, representing Mount Ver-

non, in front of which oxen were seen harnessed to the plough. Over the General appeared a *genius*, placing a wreath of laurels on his head."

#### THE EQUESTRIAN STATUE.

Soon after peace was proclaimed, Congress passed a resolution for the erection of a statue of Washington, to this effect, viz. :—" That the statue be of bronze, the General to be represented in a Roman dress, holding a truncheon in his right hand, and his head encircled with a laurel wreath. The statue to be supported by a marble pedestal, in which is to be represented the principal events of the war in which Washington commanded in person, viz.—The capture of the Hessians, at Trenton, —the battle of Princeton,—the action of Monmouth, and the surrender of York." On the upper part of the front of the pedestal, to be engraved the resolution of Congress. The statue stands in the capitol of Virginia, in a spacious area in the centre of the building. A bust of Lafayette, directed by the Legislature, is placed in a niche of the wall, in the same part of the building.

## PARTING SCENES.

## ADIEU TO THE SOLDIERS.

AFTER Washington had served the cause of his country through seven years war, in which he secured our freedom from bondage, and won for himself unfading laurels; it remained for him to bid adieu to his soldiers, and to resign his commission to Congress. His companions in arms were associates in hard labor and severe sufferings.

For the last time he assembled them at Newburg, when he rode out on the field, and gave them his parting address. To the tune of "Roslin Castle,"—the soldier's dirge,—his brave comrades passed slowly by their great leader, and filed away to their respective homes. It was a thrilling scene. There were gray headed soldiers, who had grown old by hardships and exposures, and too old to begin life anew. Among them were those to whom Washington felt indebted for good service in the hour of danger. As he looked upon them for the last time, his eyes grew dim, and he said, "I am growing old in my country's service, and losing my sight; but I never doubted its justice or gratitude." He addressed the soldiers in the spirit and language of a sage, and in the kindness of a father.



## PARTING WITH HIS OFFICERS.

On the fourth of December, at twelve o'clock, by Washington's request, his Officers, in full uniform assembled in Francis' Tavern, New York, to take leave of their commander-in-chief. When he entered the room, every man arose with eyes turned towards him. As he lifted the glass of wine to his lips, he addressed them in affecting words. "With a heart full of love and gratitude, I now take leave of you. I most devoutly wish that your latter days may be as prosperous as your former ones have been honorable and glorious." A profound silence followed, as each officer gazed on the countenance of their leader. He then requested them to come and take him by the hand. The first was General Knox, who grasped his hand in silence, and both embraced each other without uttering a word. One after another followed, receiving the embrace of the Commander,—when he left the room in silence, followed by his Officers in procession. As he passed through the Light Infantry drawn up on either side to receive him, an old soldier, who was by his side on the terrible night of his march to Trenton, stepped out from the ranks and reaching out his arms, exclaimed, "*Farewell, my dear General, farewell.*" Washington took his hand, when the soldiers forgot all discipline, rushed towards him, bathing him with their tears. This scene is often alluded to by those who were present.

They said "it was like a good Patriarch taking leave of his children, and going on a long journey, from whence he might return no more."

#### PARTING WITH CONGRESS.

After the farewell to his Officers, Washington proceeded to Whitehall, where a barge was waiting to take him across the river. He stepped on board, waving his hat, and bidding farewell to all. From New York he proceeded to Annapolis, in Maryland, where Congress was assembled. On his way he was everywhere received by the people as their *Conqueror* and Deliverer, with shouts of applause, and testimonials of their highest regard. When he arrived at Annapolis, he signified his intention of resigning his commission, and wished to know the manner in which it should be done. It was a public act,—the day was appointed,—and the multitude gathered to witness the ceremony. Washington was then introduced to a chair by the Secretary of Congress. The President then said, "The United States in Congress assembled, were prepared to receive his communication." He then arose with his accustomed natural grace, and addressed the President. The following is the close of his speech:—

"I consider it an indispensable duty to close this last act of my official life by commending the interest of our dearest country to the protection of

Almighty God ; and those who have the superintendence of them to his holy keeping. Having now finished the work assigned me, I retire from the great theatre of action, and bidding an affectionate farewell to this august body, under whose orders I have so long acted, I here offer my commission, and take leave of all my employments of public life." He then gave his commission into the hands of the President, who addressed him in an affecting and appropriate address.

## RESPECT TO MR. ADAMS.

The last words of Washington to the people of the United States are contained in his farewell address. This address was the parting adieu of one to whom the people had turned their eye in the time of danger, and wisely regarded, under God's blessing, as their faithful servant and invaluable friend. When he came before them in the Hall of Congress with his parting counsel, tears started from many eyes, especially when he expressed the thought of soon being consigned to "the mansions of rest." At the last Session that he ever met Congress, December 7th, 1796, he offered many sound reasons to them for establishing the following Institutions and Societies: for the improvement of *Agriculture—A Navy—A Military Academy—A Manufactory of Arms—and A National University*. When taking his last leave of Phila-

delphia, he could not think of going away until he had first paid his respects to Adams, the man whom the people had chosen as the chief magistrate. This act, or respectful duty, brought him once more to the Senate House. It was about eleven o'clock, while the members were assembled in the Senate Hall anxiously waiting the arrival of Mr. Adams, that a rap was heard at the door. All eyes were looking towards it, expecting, as it opened, to see the President elect enter, when to their surprise, instead of Mr. Adams and his suite, Washington appeared, in his plain traveling dress, without a single attendant. Every countenance glowed with interest, and a general applause burst forth from every tongue. Welcome to the unexpected guest! The Father of his Country was in the presence of his friends, and every eye was riveted on his face, as memory recalled the dangers he had passed, the duties he had performed, and the victory he had won. Adams and his suite soon entered the Hall; when Washington having remained sufficient time to congratulate him on his inauguration, and to pray that "his government might prove a great joy to himself, and a blessing to his country," he hastened to Mount Vernon, there to spend the residue of life in quiet repose, and undisturbed tranquillity. And the prayer of the nation was that Heaven would pour its choicest blessings on his declining years.

## AT MOUNT VERNON.

Three days after Washington's arrival at Mount Vernon, in a letter to Governor Clinton, he says, "The scene is at length closed. I feel myself eased of a load of public care, and hope to spend the remainder of my days in cultivating the affections of good men, and in the practice of the domestic virtues."

In a letter to Lafayette he writes,—“My dear Marquis, at length I have become a private citizen on the banks of the Potomac, and under the shadow of my own vine ; free from the bustle of a camp, and the busy scenes of public life. I am solacing myself with those tranquil enjoyments of which the statesman, the soldier, and the courtier, can have very little conception. I have not only retired from all public employment, but am retiring within myself,—and shall be able to view the solitary walk, and tread the paths of private life with heartfelt satisfaction.

“Envious of none, I am determined to be pleased with all ; and this my dear friend being the order of my march, I will move gently down the stream of Life, until I sleep with my Fathers.”\*

\* Marshall's Life of Washington, Vol II., p. 61.

## PARTING WITH LAFAYETTE.

When Lafayette resolved to join the American army, he set sail, and having arrived at Boston, the bells rang, the cannons roared, and the people followed him in crowds to the house of Hancock. Washington received him with open arms, and the multitude shouted, "*Long live Lafayette.*" He endeared himself to Washington, and was on terms of the highest friendship with him through life. After the proclamation of peace, Lafayette, previous to his leaving this country, visited Washington at Mount Vernon. Washington then accompanied him as far as Annapolis, where they parted. In a letter to the Marquis, after their separation, Washington writes,—“In the moment of our separation upon the road, as I traveled, and every hour since, I have felt all that love, respect, and attachment to you, which length of years, close connection, and your merits have inspired me. I often asked myself, as our carriages separated, whether that was the last sight I ever should have of you. Although I wished to say *No*, my fears answered *Yes*. I called to mind the days of my youth, and found they had long since fled, to return no more. That I was now descending the hill I had been fifty-two years climbing; and though I was blest with a good constitution, I was of a short-lived family, and might soon expect to be entombed in the mansion of my fathers. These thoughts darkened the

shades, and gave a gloom to the picture ; and consequently to my prospect of seeing you again."

#### PARTING WITH HIS MOTHER.

After Washington was appointed President of the United States, he went to visit his mother at Fredericksburg. Informing her of his election, he says, " I have come to bid you farewell," promising to return as soon as public business would admit. She replied, " You will see me no more ; my great age and the disease which is fast preying on my vitals, warn me that I shall not be long in this world. But go George, fulfill the high destinies which Heaven appears to assign to you ; go, my son, and may Heaven's and your mother's blessing be with you always." The hero leaned his head upon her shoulder and wept.

#### PARTING WITH A FAVORITE NEPHEW.

After Washington had retired to Mount Vernon for the last time, it was in hope of enjoying a vigorous old age. But it was otherwise. Here he lived but three years ; having finished the work for which he seems to have been expressly designed, he was suddenly called away by death. A favorite nephew who was accustomed to visit him, describes his last interview with him as follows. " During

my last visit to the general, we walked together about the grounds, and talked of various improvements he had in contemplation. The lawn was to be extended down to the river in the direction of the old tomb, which was to be removed on account of the inroads made by the roots of the trees with which it is crowned, and which caused it to leak. 'I intend to place it there,' said he, pointing to the spot where the new tomb now stands. 'First of all I shall make this change, for after all, I may require it before the rest.'

"When I parted from him, he stood on the steps of the front door, where he took leave of myself and another, and wished us a pleasant journey, as I was going to Westmoreland on business. It was a bright frosty morning, he had taken his usual ride, and the clear healthy flush on his cheek, and his sprightly manner brought the remark from both of us that we had never seen the general look so well. A few days afterwards, being on my way home, in company with others, while we were conversing about Washington, I saw a servant rapidly riding towards us. On his near approach I recognized him as belonging to Mount Vernon. He rode up—his countenance told the story—he handed me a letter—Washington was dead."

NOTE.—The decease of Washington will be found on another page.



## WASHINGTON AND LAFAYETTE.

## MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE.

IN introducing Lafayette's connection with Washington and the American Army, we shall first briefly notice the circumstances under which he left his home and embarked for this country.

The very early days of Lafayette gave but little promise of the long and eventful life that followed. At thirteen years of age he was left an orphan, and in full possession of valuable estates, and master of his own affairs. At twelve years of age he was placed at the college in Paris, and was there surrounded with gay and fashionable society. He was much noticed at the court of Louis, and was quite a favorite with that monarch. He was appointed one of the queen's pages, and through her agency received a commission at the early age of fifteen.—He formed an early attachment to his amiable wife, and was married at the age of sixteen. Two years after his marriage, in 1776, Lafayette's attention was directed to the conflict of liberty in America: and while in conversation with the Duke of Gloucester, brother to George III. of England, he elicited facts that led him to see the whole merits of the case. Before rising from the table his purpose was formed, and he resolved to leave his home, and to

offer himself and his services to the cause of freedom in this country. For further knowledge respecting the matter, he immediately repaired to Paris, and making known his intentions to two young friends, (enjoining the secret upon them) proposed that they should unite with him in the enterprise, but their parents refused their consent. They however, kept faithfully Lafayette's secret.

He made known his intentions to Count de Broglie, who urged him to abandon the purpose at once, saying, "I have seen your uncle die in the wars of Italy, I witnessed your father's death at the battle of Minden, and I will not be accessory to the ruin of the only remaining branch of the family." Finding his arguments failed to divert Lafayette from his purpose, he said that he would introduce him to Baron de Kalb, who was seeking an opportunity to go to America, and whose experience and counsels might be valuable. By this means Lafayette obtained information from Silas Deane, who made him acquainted with the state of things in America, and encouraged him in his intentions. It was proposed that he should take passage in a vessel about to be sent to America with arms, and other military supplies; but the news of the evacuation of New York, the loss of Fort Washington, and the retreat across the Jersey, with other disasters attending the war, defeated the plan of sending the vessel as proposed. Lafayette was advised to give up his purpose, but he said "My zeal and love of liberty have, perhaps, been hitherto the pre-

vailing motive, but now I see a chance for usefulness which I have not anticipated. I have money ; I will purchase a ship which shall convey to America myself, my companions, and the freight for Congress." This was done, but the vessel which he purchased needing repairs, caused some delay ; during which time he paid a visit to England with his cousin the Prince de Poix. After an absence of about three weeks he received information that his vessel was ready at Bordeaux, when he returned to France. Arriving at Paris he proceeded directly to the house of Baron de Kalb, and there met with a few of his friends, who were favorable to his project. He was soon informed that his intended departure was by some means made known to the Court, and that orders were issued to arrest it. Resolute in his purpose, he proceeded to the nearest port of Passage in Spain, where he left his vessel and returned immediately to Bordeaux. Here he met two officers dispatched by the king, with a letter prohibiting his departure. He was required to repair at once to Marseilles and there wait for further orders. Under pretence of obeying this order he set off, in a post-chaise, on the road to Marseilles in company with an officer named Mauroy, who was desirous of visiting America. But as soon as they left the environs of Bordeaux, Lafayette assumed the disguise of a courier, and taking the road to Bayonne, rode on before the carriage in the capacity of servant to Mauroy ; and while he remained there to transact some commission busi-

ness Lafayette lay on the straw in the stable. At the village of St. Jean-de-Luz, while calling for horses, he was detected by the daughter of the man who kept the post-house, she having seen him a few days before on his way from Passage to Bordeaux. He made a signal to the girl to keep silence which she understood. His pursuers came up and inquired of her if she had seen such a person pass that way, and she assured them she had seen no such person as *they described*. This circumstance is assigned as the reason of his not being overtaken by his pursuers before he reached his vessel at Passage. On the 26th of April, 1777, he set sail under a favorable wind, for America, accompanied by eleven officers, and also Baron de Kalb. As soon as it was ascertained that he was gone, orders from the Court of France were issued to the colonies of the West Indies to arrest his progress. He anticipated the pursuit, and induced the Captain of the Victory to sail directly for the American coast, although the Captain had on board, for his own account, a cargo for the West Indies, valued at eight thousand dollars. Having nearly reached the coast of America they saw a vessel apparently in chase, which proved to be an American privateer, returning from a cruise among the islands and bound homeward.

They endeavored to keep up with the American vessel but were not able. The next day the American encountered two English frigates, and was made a prize. After a perilous passage of sixty

days, the French vessel reached the shore near Georgetown, in South Carolina. It was dark. Entering the mouth of the Pedee River, Lafayette with some of the officers entered the small boat and rowed to the shore. Attracted by a distant light, they came to the house of Benjamin Huger, a gentleman of great hospitality and highly respectable character. At first the dogs growled around the house, and the people within supposed them to be a party of marauders from the enemy's vessel. Before gaining admission, it was demanded who they were and what they wanted. After all suspicions were removed, the object of their mission being made known, the strangers were received with a cordial welcome, and a generous hospitality; and every arrangement was made for their personal comfort. That night Lafayette retired to rest, grateful to God that he was now safely landed on American soil, beyond the reach of his pursuers.

The next morning he arose early and looking out from his window his eyes were delighted with the beautiful landscape, "clothed with the luxuriant verdure of June, and smiling in the rosy light of an unclouded morning."

We here add that the wife of Lafayette sympathized with him in his enterprise, and laid no obstacle in his way. After his arrival at Charleston, he directed letters to her and to his friends at home. The following extract from a letter to his wife will be read with interest.

"I first saw the country life at the house of Ma-

jor Huger. I am now in the city, where every thing is very much after the English fashion, except that there is more simplicity, equality, cordiality and courtesy here than in England. The American women are very pretty, simple in their manners, and exhibit a neatness which is everywhere cultivated. What most charms me is, that all the citizens are brethren. In America there are no poor, nor even what we call peasantry. Each individual has his own honest property and the same rights of the most wealthy proprietor." In the same letter he writes, expressing his warm affection for his wife and children : " Write frequent and long letters : you do not know the full extent and joy with which I shall receive them. Embrace Henrietta tenderly. May I say embrace *tenderly our children*. The father of these poor children is a rover, but a good and honest man at heart ; a good father who loves his family dearly, and a good husband who loves his wife with all his heart."

Lafayette with the party left Charleston and traveled over broken roads, and in bad weather, to Philadelphia, where he put his letters into the hands of Mr. Lovell, Chairman of the Committee of Foreign Affairs. The next day he was met outside the Hall of Congress by Mr. Lovell, who said to him, " that so many foreigners had offered themselves for employment, that Congress was embarrassed with their applications, and he was sorry to inform him that there was but little hope of his success." Lafayette suspecting his papers had not been read,

immediately addressed a note to the President of Congress, requesting to serve in the American army, on condition that he should *receive no pay* and that he should act as a *volunteer*. The terms were accepted, and before he had reached the age of twenty-one he was appointed Major General in the army. We here present our readers a few anecdotes of this estimable man in his connection with Washington and the cause of freedom he so faithfully served.

#### LAFAYETTE'S YOUNG FRIEND.

Among the children of Major Huger, was a fine little boy who attracted the attention of Lafayette. He was at first alarmed at the sudden arrival of so many guests, and not a little puzzled at their foreign accent and broken language. Lafayette took special notice of him, and soon became as familiar with the boy as if he were his own son. He would sit upon his knee, walk with him over the plantation grounds, and entertain the French visitor with his boyish prattle, and with very intelligent questions concerning his native land. As the cause of freedom was at that time everywhere discussed by the children of America, this little boy entered into the feelings of Lafayette with the enthusiasm of a devoted patriot. From this time, the name of Marquis became associated in the memory of young Francis K. Huger, with all that was

good and great. He ever afterwards spoke of Lafayette with the highest respect and veneration; often inquired of his welfare, and treasured up the events of his subsequent career; and on one occasion risked the boon of liberty and life in his service, when he, together with Dr. Bolhman, set on foot the daring enterprise of rescuing Lafayette from the prison walls of Olmutz.

#### INTRODUCTION TO WASHINGTON.

His first introduction was at a dinner party where several members of Congress were present. When they were separating Washington took Lafayette aside, and spoke to him very kindly, complimented him on the sacrifices he had made, on leaving his home, friends, and family, for the American cause,—assured him of his friendship and invited him to make his head-quarters his home, and consider himself a member of his own family. He could not promise him the luxuries of a French court since he had now become an American soldier, but assigned him all essential aid in his personal comfort, hoping he would submit with a good grace to the customs and privations of a republican army. His horses and equipage were forwarded to the camp, and he enjoyed, from that time, all the advantages of the General's family.



## LAFAYETTE'S COMMISSION.

July 31st, 1777, Lafayette received, by a resolution of Congress, his commission as a Major General of the American army. On the 11th of the September following, he engaged in the unfortunate battle of the Brandywine. There he plunged into the hottest of the battle, exposed himself to its dangers, and exhibited a noble example of coolness and courage. When the troops began to retreat in disorder, he threw himself from his horse, entered the ranks and endeavored to rally them. At this moment he was shot by a musket ball through the leg. Not perceiving the wound himself, he was told that the blood was running from his boot. The surgeon dressed it with a slight bandage so that he was enabled to ride to Chester. But his heart was so intent on rallying the disordered troops that he forgot the wound, and it was not fully dressed till his object was accomplished. It was two months before the wound was sufficiently healed to enable him to rejoin the army. This was his first engagement in the field of action, and his first introduction into active service in this country.

Lafayette accompanied Washington on a visit of examination to the fortifications in and around Philadelphia, and then proceeded with him to the camp. The troops were there reviewed by the General in person. The soldiers were poorly clad, miserably armed, and entirely unskilled in military

tactics. When Washington expressed to Lafayette his embarrassment on presenting such an army before a European officer like himself, he modestly replied, "*I have come here to learn and not to teach.*"

#### HONOR AND ATTACHMENT.

At the time the American army was quartered at Valley Forge, Lafayette was called upon to take a conspicuous station in the army under circumstances which will show, in the strongest light, his attachment to Washington, and his fidelity to the American cause. A plan was in process to raise General Gates to the head of the army in place of Washington. To effect this it was deemed necessary by the conspirators to draw Lafayette into the conspiracy. With this view an expedition against Canada was projected, to be ordered by Congress, and to be carried on by a distinct army under a commander who should not be responsible to Washington. Gates was the projector of this scheme. In the latter part of January, 1778, Washington received a letter from Gates enclosing another to Lafayette, informing him that he was appointed to the command of the expedition. Washington placed the commission into the hands of his friend without any remarks. Lafayette read the letter, and perceiving the design of its projectors, declared to three commissioners of Congress, who was in the camp

and present at the moment, that he would never accept any command independent of *his* General. His first thought was to decline the appointment altogether ; but Washington advised him to accept of it, expressing his satisfaction with the appointment. Being thus advised he accepted the charge on the condition of remaining subordinate to Washington, and being considered but as an officer detached from his command. The stipulations were agreed to, and he proceeded, under his new commission, to York, and from thence, by the direction of Congress, to Albany. Here while at the house of General Gates, and at the dinner-table, Mifflin and Conway, who were engaged in the plot, being present, Lafayette avowed his own sentiments in a manner which led them to see that there was no hope of enlisting the young officer in their secret, and dishonorable plans. It was this : as they were about to separate, Lafayette remarked that there was one toast which they had not drunk, which could not without violence to his feelings be omitted. The glasses being filled, he gave—"The Commander-in-chief of the American army." It was received with indifference, though drunk with the usual ceremony of respect. This avowal of his own attachment to Washington, cut off all their hopes of making him a tool of factions to promote their own elevation, and their object was defeated.

## ARRIVAL OF THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR.

On the 13th of April, 1778, a French frigate landed at Falmouth, (now Portland, Me.) with the bearer of dispatches, Simeon Deane, bringing the joyful intelligence of a treaty with France. It was hailed with enthusiastic feelings through every town which he passed on his way to York. When Lafayette received intelligence of his arrival, he could scarcely contain his joy. He ran to General Washington, and embracing him, with tears of gratitude exclaimed, "The king, my master, has acknowledged your independence, and formed an alliance with you to secure and establish it."

## SYMPATHY FOR THE SOLDIER.

At the battle of Monmouth, an incident occurred which reflects much honor upon Sir Henry Clinton, as well as upon the courage and humanity of Lafayette. Having approached with a small escort, within reach of the enemy's guns, for the purpose of reconnoitering their position, the aid-de-camp and friend of Lafayette was struck by a ball, and he fell at his side. The officers and soldiers fled from the scene, but Lafayette hastened to the spot, leaped from his horse, and leaning over him, addressed him in tones of kindness and affection, and would not leave him while a chance remained of

saving his life. But it was too late—death ended the scene. Turning away with deep emotion, he left his friend with slow and mournful steps. It is said that Sir Henry Clinton was present in person at this scene ; and recognizing the young marquis, by the snow-white charger which he always rode, was so touched with his manly grief, that he commanded the gunners to cease firing, and permitted him to retire unmolested, when he soon rejoined his escort, who waited for him at a safe distance from the battery.

#### LAFAYETTE LEAVING FOR FRANCE.

Lafayette, though united to the American cause, by the strongest ties, felt it his duty to serve his native country. France being now at war with England, he requested a temporary leave of absence, which was granted by Congress. Washington, with both his officers and soldiers of the army, expressed their admiration of his character and conduct, and their deep regret at his leaving the army. On leaving the camp for Boston, from whence he was to sail for Europe, he was obliged to travel on horseback. Being much exposed to chilly winds and frequent rains, a fever set in, which well nigh terminated his life. For three months he was detained under the medical care of the principal surgeon of the army. Washington's head-quarters was at this time not but a few miles from Fishkill,

where Lafayette lay dangerously sick. He exhibited great interest in his welfare, visited him daily, and entreated the physician to attend him as if he were his own son, adding with deep emotion, "*I love him as truly as if he were so.*" The fever raged with great violence, and he prepared himself to meet death with composure. He regretted to think he must take his leave so early of his friends and the cause of liberty, in which he had commenced a brilliant career. From the tender care which he received, and the aid of a strong constitution, the fever subsided, and the prospect of his recovery was hailed with universal joy, and sincere gratitude to God. As soon as he was able, accompanied by the physician, he started for Boston, and sailed from that port to Havre, on the 11th of January. During the voyage the frigate encountered a severe gale on the banks of Newfoundland, which carried away the main-top-mast, and for one night was considered in the greatest danger. The frigate outrode the gale, only to meet in her crew a more appalling disaster. Desertion and treason, mutiny and massacre, were encouraged by the British ministry on board the American ships; and even pay was promised to the crew for every rebel vessel which they should bring to an English port. Whether the crew of the Alliance shipped with this object in view, was never ascertained; but they formed a plot which had nearly ripened into action, before it was discovered.

## THE PLOT.

The mutineers fixed the day for their bloody purpose. In order to bring up all the officers and passengers on deck, they arranged for the men stationed in the top to give the signal, by the cry of "sail ho !" The conspirators, by the aid of the gunner's mate, had furnished themselves with guns, and at four P. M., the signal was to be given, when they were to sweep every man from the deck, including the officers, and take possession of the vessel. The men were all prepared with loaded muskets, ready for the awful deed. An American seaman, whose peculiar accent in his words led them to suppose he belonged to the British ranks, was offered the command of the frigate if he would join them. With great self-possession he pretended to accept the proposal, and thereby informed himself of the whole secret plot, and watched a favorable opportunity to defeat their purpose. About three o'clock, unnoticed by any of the conspirators, he divulged the whole matter to the captain, and also to General Lafayette. The officers and passengers were immediately summoned, who rushed to the deck with sword in hand, and called upon every true American and French sailor, to seize the ring-leaders and put them in irons. Thirty-one were secured and brought to trial. Eight days after the detection of the plot, the Alliance entered the port of Brest. The prisoners were not executed, but

only detained as British prisoners. Thus Lafayette was twice preserved on this voyage; and though he stole away like a fugitive from his country, he now, after an absence of nearly two years, returned for the first time with the highest office in the revolutionary army, and was welcomed home by his people with great enthusiasm and triumph.

#### THE QUEEN OF FRANCE.

The Queen of France, though opposed to the principles of the American revolution, much admired the heroism of Lafayette. She sympathized with the people of France in paying homage to his courage, and honored him with special marks of royal favor. The following lines are from an old poem, and said to be copied by her own hand. They serve to illustrate her own estimation of the talents and character of the young nobleman:—

“ Why talk of youth,  
When all the ripe experience of the old  
Dwells with him? In his schemes profound and cool,  
He acts with wise precaution, and reserves  
For times of action, his impetuous fire.  
To guard the camp, to scale the leaguered wall,  
Or dare the hottest of the fight, are toils  
That suit the impetuous bearing of his youth;  
Yet like the gray-haired veteran he can shun  
The field of peril. Still before my eyes  
I place his bright example, for I love  
His lofty courage, and his prudent thought;  
Gifted like him, a warrior has no age.”



At this time she purposed to send to Washington a royal present, as a token of her admiration. She consulted Lafayette as to the form of presenting it, citing the terms used on similar occasions, in addressing the King of Sweden and other monarchs. Lafayette objected to the terms, as being unsuitable in this case, saying, "They, madam, were only kings. Washington is the General of a free nation."

#### THE MAGNIFICENT SWORD.

While the forces of France were waiting at Havre, previous to their departure for America, in which Lafayette held an important command under Marshal de Vaux, he was presented by the hands of the grandson of Dr. Franklin, a magnificent sword which the Congress of the United States had voted him on the eve of his departure to America. The handle and the mountings were of massive gold, beautifully carved. On the knob were two medallions; one exhibiting a shield, with the Lafayette arms, and a Marquis coronet surmounted by a streamer, inscribed with his favorite motto "CUR NON." The other a continent illuminated by the moon's crescent, representing the rising glory of America. In the centre of the shaft were two oval medallions, representing on one side, the British lion prostrate under the foot of Lafayette, and on the other America presenting a laurel branch to

her young defender. Piles of arms and laurel crowns made up the remaining ornaments of the shaft. On the guard were four medallions, two on the convex, and two on the concave face, representing in *bas relief*, the battles of Gloucester and Monmouth, and the retreats of Barren Hill and Rhode Island. The sides of the guard were appropriately decorated—the front side bearing this inscription—“*From the American Congress to the Marquis de Lafayette, 1779.*” The mounting of the scabbard was of gold, carved with symbolic devices. On one side a large oval medallion, represented Fame on the wing, crossing the ocean, in advance of the frigate which conveyed Lafayette back to France. In one hand she held the crown awarded by America to Lafayette, and in the other the trumpet with which she proclaimed to Europe his heroic exploits. On the other side was a shield, encircled with laurel, intended to receive the cipher and device of Lafayette, the founder of a new name. During the reign of terror this sword was buried, for safe keeping, in the garden of Chavagniac.

#### LAFAYETTE'S RETURN AND RECEPTION.

When Lafayette was about returning to America he addressed a letter to Washington, in which he says, “However happy I am, in France, however well treated by my country and king, I am bound to you, to America, and to my fellow soldiers there,

with such an affection that the moment when I shall sail for your country, will be one of the most wished for and happiest of my life."

Dressed in the equipage of an American officer, he took leave of the French corps, and sailed from the island of Aix in the French frigate *Hermione*, March 19th, 1780, and arrived at Boston on the 28th of the following April. He was received at the wharf with warm greetings from the multitude, and escorted in a triumphal procession to the residence of Governor Hancock, on Beacon Hill. From thence he hastened to head-quarters at Morristown, and was there received by his "beloved Washington," and the American soldiers with expressions of the highest regard and affection. Immediately after his arrival, Washington wrote to the French minister expressing the "joy he felt at the arrival of the Marquis de Lafayette." He was everywhere received with open arms, and greeted by Congress with special marks of approbation. He now received the command of a selected corps of light infantry, consisting of two thousand men, and constituting the vanguard of the army. While in France, Lafayette purchased a large quantity of military ornaments for the soldiers, swords for the officers and banners for the battalions. One banner bore this motto—"ULTIMA RATIO"—*the last resort*. Another had a crown of laurel united to a civic crown, with the motto "*No other*."

On the 4th of July, Lafayette expressed his desire to Washington to have the whole army suita-

bly clad, and proposed if necessary to go to France and purchase ten thousand complete suits. When efforts were being made at this time by wealthy merchants, and the ladies of Philadelphia to assist the finances of the country, the movement was seconded by Lafayette, who added the name of his wife to the list for the sum of one hundred guineas.

#### ARNOLD'S PLOT DETECTED.

The treason of Arnold came to its crisis, during Washington's visit at Hartford, where he had gone in company with Lafayette and Knox, to confer with Admiral Turney and Count Rochambeau. On returning he came by the way of West Point, for the purpose of inspecting, and showing to Lafayette the fortifications which had been constructed during his absence in France. From thence they proceeded to Arnold's head-quarters, known as the "Robinson House," a few miles on the east side of the river below West Point. A message had been sent forward that the party might be expected there to breakfast. Having arrived opposite West Point, Washington turned suddenly into a narrow road, when Lafayette said to him, "General, you are going in a wrong direction—Mrs. Arnold will be waiting breakfast for us." Washington replied with a smile, "Ah ! I know you young men are all in love with Mrs. Arnold. Ride on and tell her not to wait for me ; but I will join you soon."

They however accompanied their commander to the river, having first sent forward Hamilton and M'Henry to explain the cause of their delay. On their arrival Arnold sat down with them to breakfast. While seated at the table, a letter was handed him from a messenger, which he opened and read in the presence of the company. It contained important news:—the capture of Andre, the failure of his nefarious plot, and his own perilous situation. Arnold concealed his emotions and immediately left the room, leaving word for General Washington that urgent business had suddenly called him to West Point, and that he would await his arrival at that place. Instead of going there he proceeded directly to the *Vulture*—a British frigate, lying on the river below, and through the means of which, he had been laying his treasonable plot by a correspondence with Sir Henry Clinton. Washington arrived soon after and partaking of a hasty breakfast started for West Point, where he became suspicious that all was not right. He returned again to Arnold's quarters, where the whole plot was disclosed by the papers which Col. Hamilton had just received. At this critical juncture of affairs, Lafayette, at the age of twenty-two, was the bosom friend of Washington.\*

It is said that Arnold after ordering his horse to be saddled, repaired to his private room, sent for his wife and in a hurried manner confessed to her the

\* Cutter's Life of Lafayette.

whole affair, saying that unless he reached the English lines without detection he would lose his life. And bidding her farewell, saying perhaps they would meet no more, he left his beautiful wife, fainting at his feet, with a crushed and broken heart.

#### THE VETERAN AND THE BOY.

Cornwallis was a distinguished officer in the British army, eminent for military talents and great skill in the battle field. On the 20th of May, with a force of eight thousand men, one thousand of whom were mounted on horses, he arrived at Petersburg with the purpose of engaging in an action with the force, headed by Lafayette, counting less than three thousand. In a letter to Clinton, Cornwallis says, "*The boy cannot escape me.*"

On the 24th the veteran chief commenced his movements, and after pursuing Lafayette for several days was compelled to give up the chase. The young General recrossed the Rapidon and overtook the British army, while but a day's march from Albemarle. Cornwallis then pitched his camp near the river, and advancing his light troops to a position where he supposed the Americans could only pass, and where he believed the boy would be obliged to come to action, or retrace his steps. Here he was disappointed. Lafayette discovered another road during the night, which for a long

time, had been untraveled. This road was cleared with great dispatch and before morning, to the chagrin and disappointment of the veteran officer, the "boy" and his army had crossed the Rivanna, and taken a strong position behind the Mechunck creek, in advance of the British camp, completely covering the stores which had been the object of all these movements. Cornwallis seeing Lafayette's position dared not make an attack, but retired without striking a blow, first to Richmond and then to Williamsburg. Lafayette followed with cautious steps, careful to avoid a general engagement, harassing all the time the British flanks and picking off their outposts, and light detachments. Cornwallis crossed over to Jamestown, and took possession of the island, while a part of his army remained in ambuscade upon the northern bank of the river. This movement was made with the hope of deceiving Lafayette, who followed all the time close on his rear, intending to make an attack when the main body should have passed over. Young Marquis detected the artifice of the British General, having discovered from a point of land which jutted into the river, the major part of the army compactly disposed under cover of an artificial thicket which had been transplanted for the purpose. Returning to the camp he found Wayne already engaged, but perceiving the unequal nature of the conflict, Lafayette gave orders for him to retreat, and form in a line with the infantry which was then drawn up in the rear. This movement was exe-

cuted with great success. During this encounter it is said that Lafayette displayed the courage and skill of a veteran officer. He was himself greatly exposed to danger, and one of his horses was killed under him. By this time the British General had learned something of the sterling qualities of the boy.

#### LAFAYETTE AT MONMOUTH.

In the battle of Monmouth, Lafayette generously resigned his command to Lee at the request of the latter. It is believed by those who were eye-witnesses of this portion of history, that if Lafayette had retained the command a signal victory would have been won. But as Lafayette was subordinate in command, he was compelled to obey the orders of Lee. While this uncertain man was commanding in front of the enemy, giving orders to Lafayette to advance at one time, and to retreat at another, the latter saw a party of British troops on the right flank, so far advanced from the main body that he thought it could be easily cut off,—and hastening to Lee, he asked permission to attack it. “You do not know British soldiers,” said Lee, “we cannot stand against them.” Lafayette replied, “It may be so; but British soldiers have been beaten, and it is presumed they may be again,—*at all events I would like to make the trial.*” The request was not granted, and here commenced the shameful retreat of Lee, which



dimmed the "Star of honor" he won in Poland, and well nigh defeated the cause of freedom.

An anecdote is related by Mr. Headly, which serves to illustrate the affectionate relation, between Washington and Lafayette.

"When the burning sun of that terrible day, disappeared behind the western hills, and the exhausted armies sunk on the scorching earth, young Lafayette lay down beside Washington, and the tired chieftain wrapped him affectionately in his own mantle. For awhile they lay awake and talked over the events of the day and especially the conduct of Lee, until at length nature gave way and the two heroes and patriots slept."

At one time, after the arrival of the French fleet in July, which made a descent upon Rhode Island, Lafayette hearing that Sullivan was attacked started off to his aid. He rode eighty miles in ten hours, and arrived in time to bring off the rear guard to the main land. In this service he acted as mediator between the French admiral and our government, and for which he received the warmest thanks of Washington and Congress. In a reply to the acknowledgments of the latter he says, "The moment I heard of America I loved her; the moment I knew she was fighting for freedom, I burned with a desire of bleeding for her; and the moment I shall be able to serve her, at any time, or in any part of the world, will be the happiest one of my life."

## RETURN TO EUROPE. |

At the time of the negotiations for peace, the services of Lafayette were much needed in Europe. He therefore made preparations to return immediately home to France. The Alliance, the same ship which conveyed him home on his previous visit was again at his disposal. He took passage on board this ship, under the highest testimonies of respect, which were universally cherished towards him, for his disinterested services in America. The prayers of a grateful people followed him across the ocean, and he was ever remembered by them as the *disinterested volunteer*, in the cause of freedom. On the 17th of January, 1782, he landed safely at L'Orient—from thence he hastened to Versailles, where he was received by the King with marks of approbation, and by the people on the way with shouts of Welcome! Welcome, Lafayette!

All his influence was still given to the interests of America, and from his commanding position at this time, approved by the King and admired by the Queen of France, he was enabled to operate with more advantage among the great ones of the earth. Congress had reposed unshaken confidence in him, and had instructed the American ministers and agents throughout Europe to consult with him in reference to their affairs.

In a letter to Washington at this time he writes,

“Though I am to re-enter the French line as a Field Marshal, from the date of Lord Cornwallis’ surrender, I will moreover keep my American uniform, and the outside as well as the inside of an American soldier, and will watch for the happy moment when I may again join our beloved colors.”

In the contemplated French expedition to Canada, Count d’Estaing was appointed commander of the land and sea forces ; he accepted however only on condition that Lafayette should accompany him, as chief of the staff of the combined armies. This arrangement was readily made when another proposed that Lafayette should be named Governor of Jamaica in case of a conquest. “No,” replied the King of Spain—“I will not consent to that—*He would make it a republic.*”

#### LETTER TO WASHINGTON.

Just as arrangements were all made for the Canada Expedition, (the entire strength of the French and Spanish armies and navies with sixty-six ships of the line, and twenty-five thousand men—together with a division of six thousand Spaniards, under the command of Las Casas ; all assembled at Cadiz, the entire fleet being on the eve of departure), the joyful intelligence arrived that the preliminaries for peace had been arranged at Paris. So happy was Lafayette on receiving the intelli-

gence that he would have hastened to America himself as the bearer of the tidings, had not his services been needed in Europe to insure the complete negotiations. By his request the Count dispatched the fast sailing vessel, *Le Triomphe*, to carry the news. Under a fine breeze she crossed the Atlantic with her errand of peace, and arrived at Philadelphia, March 23d, 1783. All hostilities were suspended, and the voice of thanksgiving went up from every vale and hill in the land. About four weeks after, the independence of the United States was recognized by Spain. At this period Lafayette was but twenty-five years of age, and history presents him here as a "confidential agent of nations, the counselor of kings and cabinets." At this time he wrote a letter to Washington in which he says,

MY DEAR GENERAL,—Were you but such a man as Julius Cæsar, or the King of Prussia, I should be almost sorry for you, at the end of the great tragedy where you are acting such a part. But with you I rejoice at the blessings of peace, where our noble ends have been secured. Remember our Valley Forge times, and from a recollection of past dangers and labors we shall better appreciate our present comfortable situation.

"At the first opening of the prospect of peace I had prepared to go to America, but on a sudden have been obliged to defer my darling plan. In June I shall embark. Happy, ten times happy,

shall I be in embracing my dear General, my father, my best friend, whom I love with an affection and respect which I too well feel, not to know, that it is impossible for me to express it."

In this letter Lafayette proposed a plan to Washington for elevating the African race, to which the latter expressed his full approbation and desire, to unite with him in the laudable enterprise.

#### VISITS AMERICA.

Lafayette was anxious once more to see his "beloved Washington" and the sons of freedom, for whom he cherished a devoted attachment, till his death. He had been earnestly solicited to come to America, and it was the desire of Washington that Madam Lafayette should accompany him. He sent her a letter in which he writes, "You must have a curiosity to see the country, young, rude and uncultivated as it is, for the liberties of which your husband has fought, and whom every body admires and loves. Let me entreat you to come—call at my cottage home, for your own doors do not open to you with more readiness than mine would."

In 1784, Lafayette embarked for this country and arrived at New York, Aug. 4th. He was universally welcomed with open arms, and received pressing invitations to visit every city in the Union. In

eleven days after his arrival he was in the mansion of Washington at Mount Vernon, where he spent fourteen days. The interview of these two affectionate men at this time remains unrecorded. It must have been one of deep interest. The venerable patriarch embraces the young Marquis in the prime of life. They are here together enjoying the luxury of congratulating each other, in the great work accomplished—the emancipation of America. They sat down together in the enjoyment of realized hopes. They had been together, side by side, in battle—slept in the same cloak on the cold earth—wept together at the sight of human suffering—and shoulder to shoulder contended for right of liberty.

Lafayette visited the States of New England, and was gratefully welcomed by the sons and daughters of freedom. Joined by Washington at Richmond, they traversed together a large portion of the country, visiting the recent fields of battle, and yet rejoicing in the peace of the nation, now reposing under the Tree of Liberty.

At Annapolis these two patriots—Washington and Lafayette—exchanged their last affectionate adieu, and terminated a personal intercourse replete with the most eloquent passages in the history of the world, and abounding in the most touching incidents and noble enterprises.

On the 8th of November, Lafayette met with Congress, then in session at Trenton, and there delivered up his commission to the President, and then bade

each member an affectionate farewell. It was an impressive scene. That body had passed a resolution expressive of the people's gratitude for him, to which he replied by saying, at the close of his address :—

“ May this immense temple of freedom ever stand as a lesson to oppressors, an example for the oppressed, a sanctuary for the rights of mankind ; and may these United States attain that complete splendor and prosperity which will illustrate the blessings of their government, and for ages to come rejoice the departed souls of their founders.”

On Christmas day, 1784, he left New York in the *Nymph* frigate, and, after a passage of thirty-one days, he arrived in Paris. In his own native land, for a few years previous to the French Revolution, he enjoyed a season of domestic enjoyment, and which he denominates “ the most peaceful days of his eventful life.” He was here surrounded by friends, and honored by the world. His beautiful mansion became the seat of hospitalities, and the home of American visitors.

In a letter to the wife of Lafayette, dated Mount Vernon, November 25, 1784, and forwarded by Marquis on his return home, Washington says :—  
“ The Marquis returns to you with all the warmth and ardor of a newly inspired lover. We restore him to you in good health, crowned with wreaths of love and respect from every part of the Union. That his meeting with you, his family, and friends may be propitious, and as happy as your wishes

can make it ; that you may live long together, revered and beloved ; and that you may transmit to a numerous progeny the virtues which you both possess is the fervent wish of

Your devoted and humble servant,

GEORGE WASHINGTON."

#### ANECDOTES.

**THE VACANT PANEL.**—Lafayette having furnished his house at Paris, placed upon one of its walls a copy of the Declaration of Independence, leaving a space upon the opposite vacant. "What do you design to place here?" asked one of his friends. "The Declaration of the Rights of France," he replied. For eight years the vacant space remained unfurnished, when, on the 11th of July, the Declaration of the Rights of France was adopted, and the vacant panel was accordingly furnished.

**KEY OF THE BASTILE.**—The Bastile of France was demolished, and was one of those events which Lafayette contemplated in the struggle for freedom. The key of that prison was presented to the Marquis as a representative of freedom in Europe. He sent it to Washington, with a sketch of the ruins of the fortress, saying, in a letter to him: "It is a tribute which I owe as a son to my adoptive father, as an aid-de-camp to my general, as a missionary of liberty to its patriarch." It is now carefully pre-



served in a glass case in the Washington House at Mount Vernon. The first stone taken from the walls of the Bastile was presented to Lafayette by the person who contracted to take it down.

A MEDAL AND STATUE.—The Municipal Council of Paris voted to Lafayette an emblematic medal and a marble statue of Washington, with the decree to be inscribed on the bust of Lafayette, which had been presented to the capital of France by the State of Virginia twelve years before.

WASHINGTON INTERCEDES FOR LAFAYETTE.—After the arrest and imprisonment of Lafayette, Washington had commenced the second term of his administration, when he employed every possible method to procure his release. He caused representations to be made in his behalf to the governments of England and France, and urged the ministers at court to leave no means untried. He wrote a letter to Madame Lafayette, informing her that a thousand dollars was left for her with his bankers in Holland; stating, also, that he was indebted to her husband more than that sum for his valuable services in America. He wrote to the King of Prussia, urging the release of his dear friend, not only as an act of justice, but as a personal favor to himself. Application was made to the court of Vienna, in a private letter from Washington, in which he says: "In common with the people of

this country I retain a cordial and strong sense of the services rendered to them by the Marquis de Lafayette, and my friendship for him has been constant and sincere. It is natural, therefore, that I should sympathize with him and his family in their misfortunes, and endeavor to mitigate the calamities they experience ; among which his present confinement is not the least distressing." Washington sent letters to all influential friends in England and on the continent, urging the release of Lafayette.

Among the distinguished men who plead for the liberation of Lafayette were Fox, Wilberforce, Sheridan, Gray, Tarlton, and Fitzpatrick, the latter of whom says : " Still less can I sanction the idea that there exists in any corner of the British soil, in any English heart, conceptions so narrow as to wish to see the *illustrious pupil* of Washington perishing in a dungeon on account of his political principles."

The devoted patriot was, however, compelled to endure the sufferings of imprisonment in the gloomy dungeon of Olmutz for the space of five years and one month. On the 19th of September, 1797, he was brought out into the light of day, and put beyond the boundaries of Austria, ten days after his arrival at Hamburg.

## LAST VISIT TO AMERICA.

Lafayette had grown old in the services he had rendered to America and France. The former country was as dear to him as his own native land. It was his earnest desire to see, once more, this land of freedom, for which he had nobly sacrificed his own personal interests. Accompanied by his son, George Washington, and his secretary, Mr. Levasseur, he took passage in the *Cadmus*, an American vessel, and sailed from Havre, July 12th, 1824. He arrived in New York August 15th, and landed on Staten Island. Forty years had elapsed since he was there. Thirteen independent States had become twenty-four, and the people were in the enjoyment of a peaceful republic. Joseph Bonaparte then resided at Bordentown, New Jersey. He had always cherished a high regard for the Marquis, and greatly valued his friendship. The interview was attended with warm emotions of heart, from the fact that they had both borne their part in the successive scenes of the Revolution in their own country. They were together alone in the library room, in undisturbed conversation, for one hour. "The grounds about the mansion were thronged with visitors, old and young, anxiously waiting to greet the nation's guest." As the fleet arrived off the Battery at New York, among which was the steamer "*Robert Fulton*," it is stated that

a military line was formed of over three thousand in number, and, the people crowding the Battery and the adjacent streets, swelled to the number of forty thousand. The patriot was deeply affected when he exchanged congratulations with his old companions and friends. Shout after shout went up in prolonged cheers, while the bands of music played a triumphant welcome to the hero. He visited all the principal places of New England, and in every place he found some of the descendants of '76, ready to give him a hearty welcome. It may be interesting to young readers to mention a few incidents connected with his last visit to America.

**HIS RECEPTION AT BOSTON.**—From the house of Governor Eustis, in Roxbury, he was attended by a crowd of people and a large cavalcade to the city line, where an assemblage of people awaited him. Here he was greeted by the Mayor of Boston and the citizens, through whom he passed in a carriage, under prolonged cheers. The streets were lined with spectators to the entrance of the Common. The children of the public schools formed two lines—the girls were dressed in white, and the boys in white pants and blue jackets, all wearing appropriate badges. A little girl sprang forward from the line as Lafayette was passing, and, at her request to speak to him, was lifted to his carriage, when she presented him with a wreath of flowers, which he received from her hand with an affectionate smile.

MARBLEHEAD.—Among the many incidents which occurred in Lafayette's tour through the States, one is mentioned as occurring in the patriotic town of Marblehead. The Marquis appeared surprised at so many ladies being mingled with the male citizens, who had been deputed to receive him. The orator of the occasion, perceiving the surprise of the Marquis, said to him: "These are the widows of those who perished in the revolutionary war, and the mothers of children for whose liberty you have contended in the field of battle. They are now here in the places of their husbands, many of whom were once known to you."

Marblehead was the "banner town" for furnishing soldiers, there being a larger proportion to the whole number of inhabitants from that town than that of any other place in the United States. The loss of men in the war fell heavily upon the small seaport towns: the British armed vessels hovering on the coast destroyed the coasting and fishing business. Being out of employment, nearly all the young and old men shouldered their muskets and joined the army.

AT BALTIMORE.—After leaving Philadelphia, where he was welcomed with great enthusiasm, he passed through Delaware, and landed at Baltimore, when he was conducted to the "*Tent of Washington*," and welcomed by an address from the governor, and received at the same time by the "Society of the Cincinnati." For some time

Lafayette could not understand the compliment conveyed in the selection of the tent. It was soon made plain, as he recognized a portion of Washington's equipage: and turning to one near him, he said, in a voice that indicated much emotion, "*I remember.*"

AT WASHINGTON.—Lafayette was cordially received at the "White House, by President Monroe. Congress was just meeting in the second session. He was introduced to both Houses, and was addressed by Mr. Clay, speaker of the House of Representatives. At this session the sum of two hundred thousand dollars, together with a township, consisting of twenty-four thousand acres of fertile land, was voted by Congress to Lafayette, as an expression of the grateful memory with which the people of this republic regarded his services in behalf of America. A few of the members voted against the appropriation from some constitutional scruples. Lafayette, taking one of them by the hand, said to him with considerable feeling, "I appreciate your views. If I had been a member, I should have voted with you, not only because I partake of the sentiments which determined your votes, but also because I think that the American nation has done too much for me."

AT YORKTOWN.—This place, which is distinguished for the surrender of Cornwallis, presented a field of tents at the reception of Lafayette. The

same house occupied by that British general, as his head-quarters, in 1781, was still standing. The general appearance of the place gave evidence of a deserted village. The houses there, which had been riddled with balls and enveloped with smoke, still retained the marks of battle. In many parts of the ground were seen broken shells, and gun carriages, with various implements of war, some on rocks, and others half buried in the earth! Every arrangement was made on the arrival of Lafayette to give Yorktown the appearance of a "village taken and occupied after a severe contest in battle."

Among the tents erected on the occasion, were that of *Washington*, and many others which had furnished temporary apartments for weary soldiers during the campaign. An arch, bearing the names of Lafayette, Hamilton and Laurens, was erected on the very spot where the redoubt stood which was stormed by Lafayette; an obelisk was also erected, bearing the names of distinguished Frenchmen. And on the same spot it is said that Gen. Taylor was designing, at the close of his address on this occasion, to place a blended civic crown and martial wreath, in honor to Lafayette, who, while he acknowledged the compliment, averted its consummation, and taking the crown and wreath in his hand, called for Col. Fish, the only survivor of the attack upon the redoubt, and declared that half the honor belonged to him.

Washington's marquee was erected on the plain,

just out of the village. To this tent Lafayette was escorted, where he welcomed the officers of the militia. Two old veterans were there, who had faced the enemy in war, and stood firm in the midst of the roar of cannon ; but as they pressed the hand of Lafayette on this occasion, they wept and fainted. Some of the servants who were present discovered in an obscure corner of a cellar a large box of candles, bearing marks of belonging to Cornwallis' military stores—having remained undisturbed for forty-three years. They were lighted for the evening, and notwithstanding the fatigues of the day, some of the old soldiers remained till the last vestige of the British candles had expired in the sockets.

AT CAMDEN.—Here Lafayette assisted in laying the corner-stone of a monument, erected to the name and memory of Baron de Kalb, a German by birth, who came to this country and volunteered his services in the American army for three years. He fell while engaged in the battle at Camden, pierced with eleven wounds. It is said that Washington, visiting his grave many years after his death, sighed as he looked upon it, and exclaimed, "There lies the brave de Kalb, the generous stranger, who came from a distant land to fight our battles, and to water with his blood the tree of Liberty. Would to God he had lived to share with us in its fruits!" At Savannah Lafayette united in the same service which was performed to the memory of Greene and Pulaski.



AT CHARLESTOWN.—On the 17th of June, Lafayette witnessed the laying of the corner-stone of Bunker Hill Monument. He was the only surviving major-general of the revolution who was present at the time. Col. Francis K. Huger participated in the ceremonies—the man who, when a lad, walked with Lafayette over his father's grounds, and who, some thirty years before the 17th of June, risked his life in attempting to aid Lafayette in his escape from the Castle of Olmutz. The people of Charlestown not only welcomed Huger to their hospitalities, but gave him a seat by the side of Lafayette in the carriage which moved in the procession, and also one near him at the festive board, and also expressed their highest gratitude to him for the service which he rendered in attempting to aid Lafayette in his escape from Olmutz.

AT KASKASKIA.—During Lafayette's tour he paused a short time at this place, where no preparations had been made for his reception. An affecting incident occurred at the time, as follows: Curiosity induced one of his companions to go out and look upon an Indian encampment, a short distance from the town. He there met with an educated Indian woman, who spoke the French language tolerably well, and expressed a desire to see Lafayette and to show him a relic which she always carried with her, and which was "very dear to her." She desired to show it to Lafayette, as proof of the

reverence with which his name was regarded among their tribes. It was a letter written by Lafayette in 1778, and addressed to her father, Panis-ciowa, a chief of one of the six nations. This letter expressed the hearty thanks of Lafayette for the faithful services of that chief in the American cause.

The name of this only child of the old chief was Mary, who, at the decease of her mother, was placed under the care of an American agent, by whom she was instructed and kindly treated. She became a Christian. As she was walking out in the forest, about five years after, an Indian warrior informed her that her father was dying, and wished to see her. She immediately started off, traveled all night, and in the morning reached his hut, which was situated in a narrow valley. As she came to his bed-side, he took from his pouch a paper wrapped in a dry skin, and gave it to her, with a charge to preserve it as a precious gift, saying: "It is a powerful charm to interest the pale faces in your favor. I received it from a great French warrior, whom the English dreaded as much as the Americans loved him, and with whom I fought in my youth." The chief died the next day. Mary returned to her white friends, and soon after married the young warrior, who was her father's friend and companion. She had the pleasure of showing the letter to Lafayette, who heard her touching story with great respect and with deep feeling.

AT NASHVILLE—Lafayette was received with the same demonstrations of joy as at other places. There had come from different parts of New York about forty officers and soldiers of the Revolution. Among the number was an aged man who had traveled one hundred and fifty miles. Taking Lafayette by the hand, he says: "I have come to see the young general. I have had two happy days in my life—one when I landed with you on the American coast, in 1777, and to-day when I see your face again. I have lived long enough." His name was Haguy, a German. He embarked in the same vessel with Lafayette for this country, and served under him during the whole war.

AN ACCIDENT.—During Lafayette's tour in the West, he and his associates were conveyed to Louisville in a steamer. As they were passing up the Ohio, in a very dark night, the steamer struck a snag, when an indescribable scene of dismay and confusion pervaded the passengers. The boat became a total wreck, and it was almost a miracle that a single life was saved. The boat was instantly launched from the steamer, and such was the anxiety felt for the life of Lafayette, that the passengers insisted, though much against his own will, on placing him first on board the boat. In a few minutes he and a few of his friends were safely landed on shore.

George Washington Lafayette was the last person who left the steamer, and whose valuable ser-

vices drew from the captain the following remark : " He must often have been shipwrecked, for he has acted to-night as if he was accustomed to such adventures." The passengers and crew being all landed on shore, they took shelter under some trees. There came up a heavy rain, and some of them were half naked. They soon kindled up fires by the aid of brush-wood gathered from the forest ; and here, in every kind of costume, they made themselves as comfortable as possible till morning dawned, when a boat from Louisville appeared, bound down the river. One of the proprietors being on board, gave directions to take all the passengers and crew, and return with them to Louisville.

RED JACKET.—This old chief of the Seneca tribe of Indians paid a visit to Lafayette while he was at Buffalo. They had both met in council at Fort Schuyler, in 1784. Red Jacket, in conversation with the general, referred to that council, when the latter asked ; " Where is the young warrior who opposed the burying of the tomahawk ? " " He is here before you," replied the chief. " Ah ! I see," replied the general ; " time has changed us. We were once young and active." " Ah ! " said the chief, " time has made less change on you than on me," as he uncovered his head and exhibited his entire baldness. The general wore a wig, and, not wishing to deceive the Indian, took it from his head, at not a little amusement to the old Indian chief.

INCIDENT AT UTICA.—When Lafayette was leaving this place, and receiving the farewells from the multitude assembled at the wharf, a tall, stout Indian, covered with grotesque ornaments, which left no doubt that he was a son of the forest, rushed through the crowd, and made signs for the boat to tarry. The captain not deeming it expedient to stop the boat, the Indian hastened towards a bridge beyond the boat, and there waited her coming.—When the boat came near enough, he leaped upon the deck, and cried out, “*Kayoula!* where is *Kayoula?*” Lafayette being pointed out to him, he grasped him by the hand, saying: “I am the son of Wekchekata, who loved you and followed you to your own country after the great war. Lafayette talked with him for a moment, and gave him a present, when the young chief sprang from the deck to the shore, a distance of ten feet.

#### VISITS THE TOMB OF WASHINGTON.

Among the incidents of Lafayette’s tour was his visit to the tomb of Washington. His arrival there was announced by the firing of cannon, which brought to his memory the din of war,—the scenes of the Revolution,—when he, with the lifeless chieftain, were active in battle. As he stood beside the consecrated ground and amidst the solemn stillness of the place, he descended alone into the tomb with his head uncovered. There he remained alone

for some time—the living aged veteran communing with the illustrious dead. He returned with his face bathed in tears, and, taking his son and Levasseur, the secretary, by the hand, led them into the tomb. He could not speak, but pointed mutely to the coffin of Washington. They knelt reverently by it, kissed it, and, rising, threw themselves into the arms of Lafayette, and for a few moments wept in silence. He was there presented, by the hand of Mr. Custis, with an appropriate address, with a ring containing a portion of the hair of his departed friend, and other memorials of the “Father of his Country.”

#### PARTING WITH AMERICA.

Lafayette had traveled during his last visit to America, in less than four months, over five thousand miles. The time which he had allotted for his visit passed away, attended with joyful receptions at every place, where he received the homage of a free and grateful people. He enjoyed his last *fête* at the house of President Adams, in Washington, on the 6th of September, 1825, being the anniversary of his birthday. The farewell address from the President, in behalf of the American people, was truly affecting, and closed with the following pathetic words :—

“ You are ours by that unshaken sentiment of gratitude for your services which is a precious por-

tion of our inheritance ; ours by that tie of love, stronger than death, which has linked your name for the endless ages of time with the name of Washington.

“ At the painful moment of parting from you we take comfort in the thought that, wherever you may be, to the last pulsation of your heart, our country will ever be present to your affections ; and a cheering consolation assures us that we are not called to sorrow—most of all, that we shall see your face no more. We shall indulge the pleasing anticipation of beholding our friend again. In the name of the whole people of the United States, I bid you a reluctant and affectionate farewell.”

To this parting address Lafayette replied in a strain of eloquence never to be forgotten.

On the same day he embarked on board the *Brandywine*,\* which had been finished and manned to convey him to his native country. The next morning she weighed anchor, and unfurled her sails to the breeze at the head of the River. As the frigate left the shore he gazed upon this land of liberty for the last time. While the steamer was passing down the river, Lafayette being at dinner, it was observed that the band changed its lively strains of music to the plaintive notes of Pleyel's hymn. Lafayette hearing it, announced, “ We are opposite Mount Vernon,” left the table, and,

\* This frigate was upon the stocks when Lafayette arrived in this country, and was finished with a view of conveying home the nation's guest.

ascending to the deck, looked towards the resting place of Washington, until the twilight shadows and the distance of the vessel closed the scene. He arrived at Havre, October 4th, and was again greeted by the people of his country with a hearty welcome; and, as he drew near to La Grange, his tenants flocked around him, like affectionate children around a parent, and breathed a fervent wish that he would never leave them again.

#### DEATH OF LAFAYETTE.

The character of Lafayette is exhibited in the details of his career through a long and truly patriotic life. We cannot but admire his self-sacrificing spirit, and praise the wisdom and courage in legislative council, and which aided in carrying a nation through successive revolutionary scenes; and also that disinterested patriotism which marked his whole life. The close of his pilgrimage was drawing nigh. After resigning his command in the National Guards, he retired to La Grange, with the sweet reflection that anarchy and despotism had come to an end; and there, in the capacity of a legislator, he remained in the enjoyment of quiet life till his death.

On the 2d of February, 1834, overcome by fatigue and exposure by attending the funeral of a young friend, he was attacked with a disease to which he was predisposed. Having recovered from this at-



tack insomuch as to be able to receive his friends, he ventured to take his usual rides, and continued them till, on the 9th of May, being exposed to a sudden thunder storm and a cold wind, a relapse followed, and for eleven days he experienced severe sufferings. On the third day before his decease, having some doubts of his recovery, he appeared to be in silent thought, when he said : “ *What would you have? Life is like the flame of a lamp : when the oil is out the light is extinguished, and all is over.*”

A short time before breathing his last, he opened his eyes and fixed them with a look of affection on his children, as if to bless them and bid them farewell. “ He pressed my hand,” says one of his attending physicians, “ and drew in a deep and lengthened breath, which was immediately followed by a *last sigh*.” Supported by his son George Washington, he fell into his arms and died, being in his seventy-seventh year. “ We would,” says one, “ that we might catch in these closing scenes the evidences of a Christian faith. Lafayette needed the cheering hopes of heaven to gild his pathway to the sepulchre, without which all other virtues are dim and powerless.”

He died at his hotel in Paris, May 21st, 1834. His decease threw a gloom over that gay city and throughout the entire nation of France. The bells of all France and of all nations tolled a mournful requiem, and his character was made the theme of eloquent orations by the most eminent statesmen.

## THE WIFE OF LAFAYETTE.

Lafayette's introduction to Washington was the commencement of an acquaintance between these two great men, which resulted in a lasting friendship between the two families.

The wife of Lafayette shared in the hatred which her husband ever felt towards oppression, and with him endured sufferings almost to death while shut up in the prison walls of Olmutz. Madame de Stael has truly remarked that the history of female virtue and female heroism presents nothing more rare in excellence than the life and character of NOAILLES LAFAYETTE.

It is not our purpose to sketch the character of this woman, but only to introduce her relation to Washington, as the friend of her beloved partner. Her virtues shone through all her life. Possessing a retiring and amiable disposition, and adorned with those ornaments which give beauty and character to woman, she was admirably qualified for the duties of domestic life. She loved the quiet retreat of home, and maintained in the family circle the character of an affectionate wife and a devoted mother.

While her husband was confined within the prison walls of Olmutz, a prisoner to a Prussian monarch, without a single comfort to cheer his loneliness, it was then that the heroic devotion of the wife of Lafayette was conspicuously developed. Despotism

reigned in Austria, and the Marquis was imprisoned for no real offence. Together with his friends Hunger and Bohlman, placed within the same castle, and occupying cells in the same corridor, they were guarded against all intercourse with each other and all knowledge of each other's condition. As they entered their cells, it was declared to each of them that "they would never come out alive; that they would never see any thing but what was enclosed within the four walls of their respective cells; that they would never be suffered to learn any thing of the situation of their families, or even to know of each other's existence."

The dungeon walls were twelve feet thick, and with two doors, one of iron and the other of wood, nearly two feet thick, covered with bolts and bars. In a cell of eight or ten paces deep, by six or eight wide, furnished with an old worm eaten table and a hard bed of rotton straw, without a cheering voice to greet his ear, the hero of France was confined, to eke out a miserable existence.

The imprisonment of Lafayette was a terrible calamity to his family. His wife, true to her domestic relations and to her pledges of filial affection, determined to suffer with him or to procure his release. She seemed to rise above all personal comfort, and regarded not the danger to which she exposed herself, under the "Reign of Terror," in attempting to procure his liberty. She acted as one who would cheerfully have laid down her life for the redemption of her husband from bondage. She

addressed the Prussian monarch with feelings best described in her own language :—

“He in whose favor I implore the mercy of your Majesty has never known crime. At the moment he was taken prisoner, he was crossing the Low Countries to take refuge in America. I may be blind to the character of a *beloved husband* ; but I cannot deceive myself in being persuaded that your Majesty will grant the prayer of an unhappy woman.”

This petition was made by her to the Emperor after being released from a long captivity, which she, with her daughters, suffered under the proscriptions in France. Having sent her son George to this country, to be placed under the care of Washington, she started for Germany, to see what could be done for her husband. In the meantime she wrote the following

#### LETTER TO WASHINGTON.

This letter, dated 1792, contained, first, an account of the situation of Lafayette and his family. She then says : “He was taken by the troops of the Emperor, although the King of Prussia retains him a prisoner in his dominions ; and, while he suffers this persecution from the enemies without, the faction which reigns within keeps me a hostage at one hundred and twenty leagues from the capital. Judge, then, at what distance I am from him. In

this abyss of misery the idea of owing to the United States and to Washington the life and liberty of M. de Lafayette kindles a ray of hope in my heart. I hope every thing from the goodness of the people, with whom he has set an example of that liberty of which he is now made a victim. And shall I dare speak what I hope? I would ask of them, through you, for an envoy, who shall go to reclaim him, in the name of the Republic of the United States, wherever he may be found, and who shall be authorized to make, with the power in whose charge he may be placed, all necessary engagements for his relief and for taking him to the United States, even if he is there to be guarded as a captive. If his wife and children could be comprised in this mission, it is easy to judge how happy it would be for her and them; but if this would in the least degree retard or embarrass the mission, we will defer still longer the happiness of a reunion. May Heaven deign to bless the confidence with which it has inspired me! I hope my request is not a rash one. Accept the homage of the sentiments which have dictated this letter, as well as that of attachment and tender respect."

Washington was unable to comply with this request, but wrote an answer, kindly assuring her of his sympathy, and stating that, while he could not commit his official character or involve the country in embarrassments, yet he would exert his individual influence in restoring the Marquis to his family and to freedom.

## THE MEETING IN PRISON.

Passing under the name of *Motier*, and with the protection of American passports, the wife of Lafayette, accompanied by her daughters, set out for Germany. Arriving at Vienna, she obtained an interview with the Emperor Francis I., nephew of the Queen of France, Maria Antoinette. To him she made her plea with that power and feeling that no one could employ but a wife pleading for her husband in bonds. He told her that his "hands were tied," and it was impossible to grant her request; but gave her and her daughters the liberty of sharing his sufferings within the prison walls, but with this fact for her to consider: That, "if they entered the prison, they might never come forth alive; and they were to take with them nothing that would in the least degree minister to their comfort, or alleviate the suffering and gloom which pervade the walls of an Austrian dungeon." These restrictions well become the inquisition of the Bastille. But, with all their severity, they were accepted. They received their passports, and hastened to the distance of one hundred and fifty miles, when they—the wife and daughters of Lafayette—stood before the gate of Olmutz prison. In a few moments the *prevot* turned the key and conducted them into the gloomy cell of the lonely captive. Lafayette was then fearing that his next visitor might be the executioner to lead him forth to the scaffold and the

axe. But, instead of him, he was greeted with the smiles and tears of his wife and lovely daughters. Anastasia, the eldest, was sixteen, and Virginia, thirteen years of age.

Confined in separate cells for eighteen hours of each day, and were allowed to pass only six hours with their father in his cell, they remained there, with their mother, till the year of his release.

Madame Lafayette was worn down by previous suffering during her confinement for a year and a half in the Tribunal at Paris. By the earnest request of her husband and children she was induced to ask permission to spend a week at Vienna, where she might, by the aid of pure air and wholesome regimen, refresh her almost exhausted nature. This request remained unnoticed for two months, when, after grave deliberation among the lords at Vienna, a permission was granted her, on the condition "*that she should never appear in the capital nor return to the prison.*" Such conditions were promptly met by the faithful wife. She declared to the officer who came with the message that, "rather than leave the prison on such terms, she would remain there, even should she be called to die in the loathsomeness of her captivity. In a letter to the Emperor in reply to the message, she writes :—

"I will not expose myself to the horror of a new separation. Whatever may be the state of my health, or the inconvenience of this residence to my daughters, we shall gratefully avail ourselves of his

imperial Majesty's goodness in permitting us to share my husband's captivity in all its details.

NOAILLES LAFAYETTE."

This heroic woman remained there during the whole captivity, without ever presenting another request for liberty or comforts of any kind. She preferred the sad condition of her lot to the horrors of a painful separation from the husband of her youth.

But the family of Lafayette were not destined to perish in a dungeon. The day of their liberation came. On the 23d of September, 1797, they were conducted from their gloomy cells into the light of day. Escorted to Hamburg, they received their formal discharge from the American Consul, John Parish, Esq., whose house was open for reception. He says: "An immense crowd of people announced their arrival. The streets were lined, and my house was soon filled with them. A lane was formed to let the prisoners pass to my room. Lafayette led the way, and was followed by his infirm lady and two daughters. He flew into my arms. His wife and daughters clung to me. A silence—an expressive silence—took place. It was broken by an exclamation of 'My friend! my dearest friend! my *deliverer*! See the work of your generosity!' " \*

Madame Lafayette was hardly able to support

\* The American Consul had long been devoted to the escape of the Lafayette family.



herself. Weak and feeble, she was supported on the arm of Mr. Parish, bathed in tears, as her two lovely daughters stood by her, hand in hand. It was an affecting scene. The Marchioness was placed on a sofa. She uttered a few words, and joined the Marquis in expressions of gratitude for their deliverance.

#### THE CLOSING SCENE.

In consequence of her confinement in Austria, the health of Madame Lafayette was greatly impaired. Disease had gradually wasted her constitution, and ultimately brought her to a premature grave. Lafayette discovered in her pale cheek, dim eye, and less elastic step the evidence of a speedy separation from her who had endured the most cruel sufferings on his own account. On the 24th of December, 1807, she gave him her last smile, bade him farewell, and, offering her last prayer that she might have the "peace of God," she gently fell asleep in death. M. de Segur says: "She was a model of heroism, and indeed of every virtue. She died surrounded by a numerous family, who offered up earnest prayers for her preservation. When unable to speak, a smile played upon her lips at the sight of her husband and children. Devoted to her domestic duties, which were her only pleasure, adorned by every virtue, pious, modest, charitable, severe to herself, indulgent to others,

she was one of the few whose pure reputation has received fresh lustre from the misfortunes of the Revolution. She was the happiness of her family, the friend of the poor, the consoler of the afflicted, an ornament to her country, and an honor to her sex."

The death of this lady was not a transient affliction to Lafayette. In a letter to a friend, he says : " I have neither the power nor the wish to struggle against the calamity which has befallen me, or rather to surmount the deep affliction which I shall carry with me to the grave." Another friend, who was his constant attendant during his last illness, says : " I surprised him kissing her portrait, which he always wore suspended to his neck in a small gold medallion. Around the portrait were the words, '*I am yours,*' and on the back was this inscription : ' I was then a gentle companion to you. In that case, bless me.' Her private apartment was ever held sacred, and preserved in the same state as when she died. To this room her bereaved husband daily repaired, alone or in company with his children, to renew his homage to her memory."

## WASHINGTON'S LAST DAYS AND PRIVATE LIFE.

WHEN Washington left the quiet repose of Mount Vernon to assume the responsibilities of the Presidency of the United States, he was welcomed to the chair of state by the united voice of a grateful people; and, when he returned from the office, he was followed to the same quiet retreat with blessings from the people he devotedly served. Here he was employed in his accustomed and favorite pursuits. He gave much attention to his domestic affairs and agricultural occupations, and endeavored to make happy those around him and those who visited him during the remainder of his life.

He was accustomed to early rising, and often before the dawn of day lighted his candle and entered his study, where he spent some time alone, as is believed, in devotional duties. This was a sacred place; and all who knew Washington's habits were satisfied that his early hours were hallowed time. Having finished his morning duties, he rang for his boots, and walked or rode out to attend to his morning occupations. His house was open to all visitors, with whom he spent many pleasant hours in agreeable and profitable conversation. He was much interested in his old age in the innocent

gambols of children, and enjoyed with them a half hour's recreation from his usual avocations.

#### DESCRIPTION OF MOUNT VERNON.

Mr. Weld during his travels in the United States visited the home of Washington, and describes it as it appeared at that time when Washington had retired from public life :—

“Nine miles below this place, (*i. e.* Alexandria,) on the banks of the Potomac, stands Mount Vernon, the seat of General Washington ; the way to it, however, from Alexandria, by land, is considerably farther, on account of the numerous creeks which fall into the Potomac, and the mouths of which it is impossible to pass near to.

Very thick woods remain standing within four or five miles of the place ; the roads through them are very bad, and so many of them cross one another in different directions, that it is a matter of very great difficulty to find out the right one. I set out from Alexandria with a gentleman who thought himself perfectly well acquainted with the way ; had he been so, there was ample time to have reached Mount Vernon before the close of the day, but night overtook us wandering about in the woods. We did not perceive the vestige of a human being to set us right, and we were preparing to pass the night in the carriage, when luckily a light appeared

at some distance through the trees ; it was from a small farm-house, the only one in the way for several miles ; and having made our way to it, partly in the carriage, partly on foot, we hired a negro for a guide, who conducted us to the place of our destination in about an hour. The next morning I heard of a gentleman, who, a day or two preceding, had been from ten o'clock in the morning till four in the afternoon on horseback, unable to find out the place, although within three or four miles of it the whole time.

The Mount is a high part of the bank of the river, which rises very abruptly about two hundred feet above the level of the water. The river before it is three miles wide, and, on the opposite side, it forms a bay about the same breadth, which extends for a considerable distance up the country. This, at first sight, appears to be a continuation of the river ; but the Potomac takes a very sudden turn to the left, two or three miles above the house, and is quickly lost to the view. Downwards, to the right, there is a prospect of it for twelve miles. The Maryland shore, on the opposite side, is beautifully diversified with hills, which are mostly covered with wood ; in many places, however, little patches of cultivated ground appear, ornamented with houses. The scenery altogether is most delightful. The house, which stands about sixty yards from the edge of the Mount, is of wood, cut and painted so as to resemble hewn stone. The rear is towards the river, at which side is a portico

of ninety-six feet in length, supported by eight pillars. The front is uniform, and at a distance looks tolerably well. The dwelling house is in the centre, and communicates with the wings on either side by means of covered ways, running in a curved direction. Behind these wings, on the one side, are the different offices belonging to the house and also to the farm ; and on the other, the cabins for the slaves. In front, the breadth of the whole building, is a lawn, with a gravel walk round it, planted with trees, and separated by hedges on either side from the farm-yard and garden. As for the garden, it wears exactly the appearance of a nursery, and, with every thing about the place, indicates that more attention is paid to profit than to pleasure. The ground in the rear of the house is also laid out in a lawn, and the declivity of the Mount, towards the water, in a deer park.

The rooms in the house are very small, excepting one, which has been built since the close of the war for the purpose of entertainments. All of these are very plainly furnished, and in many of them the furniture is dropping to pieces. Indeed, the close attention which General Washington has ever paid to public affairs having obliged him to reside principally at Philadelphia, Mount Vernon has consequently suffered very materially. The house and offices, with every other part of the place, are out of repair, and the old part of the building is in such a perishable state, that I have been told he wishes he had pulled it entirely down at first, and built a

new house, instead of making any addition to the old one. The grounds in the neighborhood are cultivated, but the principal farms are at the distance of two or three miles.

As almost every stranger going through the country makes a point of visiting Mount Vernon, a person is kept at the house during General Washington's absence, whose sole business it is to attend to strangers. Immediately on our arrival every care was taken of our horses, beds were prepared, and an excellent supper provided for us."

#### ILLNESS AND DEATH OF WASHINGTON.

General Washington had been destined to live for others; and it now appeared to be the will of Heaven that, so soon as the circumstances of his country enabled it to dispense with the presence of their founder and their benefactor, he should be summoned away from the scenes of earth, so that the innocent indulgences of the evening of his days might not constitute an exception to a life of such entire self-devotion.

On Friday, December the 13th, 1799, while superintending some improvements at Mount Vernon, he was exposed to a slight rain, which wetted his neck and hair; some slight precautions against cold were immediately taken, but in the course of the night he was attacked with acute inflammation of the windpipe, by which respiration was rendered

laborious, and swallowing difficult and painful.— Without medical advice, he determined upon losing blood ; and for this purpose sent for some person accustomed to the use of the lancet, and ordered him to take fourteen ounces from the arm. The family physician, Dr. Craik arrived at eleven o'clock on Saturday morning, and, perceiving the critical nature of the case, recommended an immediate consultation, and Doctors Dick and Brown were called in. This measure, however, was unavailing. From the first indication of the disease, General Washington was convinced that the great enemy was approaching. He submitted to medical treatment without encouraging the slightest expectation of relief ; and some hours before his death expressed, with great difficulty, his wish that it might be discontinued. It is, doubtless, owing to the extreme difficulty with which he articulated, that we possess so few of the last words of the dying hero. A few hours before his decease, he informed his attendants that his affairs were in good order ; that he had made his will, and that his public business was but two days in arrear. One more precious declaration, however, remains to us, transmitted to posterity by the physician to whom it was addressed. It is characterized by the same simplicity which, through life, had invested every part of his character with majesty and beauty. “ Doctor,” said he, “ I am dying, and have been dying for a long time ; but I am not afraid to die.” The whole history of General Washington's life justifies our denominating



this the language of submission ; but that history also affords us good ground for believing that it was the language of Christian heroism, the natural expression of a heart whose ease was not derived from self-complacency nor from philosophical speculation, but which drew from the Rock of evangelical truth the living stream of "peace, which passeth understanding." At half-past eleven o'clock, on Saturday evening, after an illness of twenty-four hours, he closed his eyes in death, December 14th, 1799, leaving a nation to mourn his loss, to honor his life, and generations to cherish his memory through all time. The committee appointed by Congress to devise means of expressing the national feelings, recommended that a marble monument be erected by the United States at the city of Washington, to commemorate the great events of his military and political life. The oration delivered on the occasion at Washington, by Henry Lee, was heard with profound attention and with deep interest.

"How sleep the brave who sink to rest,  
By all their country's wishes blest !  
When Spring, with dewy fingers cold,  
Returns to deck their hallowed mould ;  
She there shall dress a sweeter sod  
Than Fancy's feet have ever trod.

By fairy hands their knell is rung :  
By forms unseen their dirge is sung !  
There Honor comes, a pilgrim gray,  
To bless the turf that wraps their clay ;  
And Freedom shall awhile repair,  
To dwell a weeping hermit there."

## THE GRAVE OF WASHINGTON.

Disturb not his slumbers ; let Washington sleep  
'Neath the boughs of the willow that over him  
weep ;

His arm is unnerved, but his deeds remain bright  
As the stars in the dark vaulted heaven at night.  
O, wake not the hero ; his battles are o'er ;  
Let him rest undisturbed on Potomac's fair shore ;  
On the river's green border so flowery drest,  
With the hearts he loved fondly, let Washington  
rest.

Awake not his slumbers ; tread lightly around ;  
'Tis the grave of a freeman, — 'tis Liberty's  
mound !

Thy name is immortal ; our freedom ye won,  
Brave sire of Columbia, our own Washington.  
O, wake not the hero ; his battles are o'er ;  
Let him rest, calmly rest, on his dear native shore,  
While the stars and the stripes of our country shall  
wave  
O'er the land that can boast of a Washington's  
grave.

*Marshal S. Pike.*

## WASHINGTON'S WILL.

I, GEORGE WASHINGTON, of Mount Vernon, a citizen of the United States, and lately President of the same, do make, ordain, and declare this instrument, which is written with my own hand,\* and every page thereof subscribed with my name, to be my last WILL and TESTAMENT, revoking all others. *Imprimis*.—All my debts, of which there are but few, and none of magnitude, are to be punctually and speedily paid, and the legacies hereinafter bequeathed are to be discharged as soon as circumstances will permit, and in the manner directed.

*Item*.—To my dearly beloved wife, Martha Washington, I give and bequeath the use, profit, and benefit of my whole estate, real and personal, for the term of her natural life, except such parts thereof as are specially disposed of hereafter. My improved lot, in the town of Alexandria, situated on Pitt and Cameron streets, I give to her and her heirs for ever; as I also do my household and kitchen furniture, of every sort and kind, with the effects and groceries which may be on hand at the time of my decease, to be used and disposed of as she may think proper.

*Item*.—Upon the decease of my wife, it is my

\* In the original manuscript, George Washington's name was written at the bottom of every page.

will and desire that all the slaves which I hold in my own right shall receive their freedom. To emancipate them during her life, would, though earnestly wished by me, be attended with such insuperable difficulties, on account of their intermixture by marriage with the dower negroes, as to excite the most painful sensations, if not disagreeable consequences, from the latter, while both descriptions are in the occupancy of the same proprietor; it not being in my power, under the tenure by which the dower negroes are held, to manumit them. And whereas, among those who will receive freedom according to this devise, there may be some, who, from old age or bodily infirmities, and others, who, on account of their infancy, that will be unable to support themselves, it is my will and desire that all who come under the first and second description shall be comfortably clothed and fed by my heirs while they live; and that such of the latter description as have no parents living, or, if living, are unable or unwilling to provide for them, shall be bound by the court until they shall arrive at the age of twenty-five years; and in cases where no record can be produced, whereby their ages can be ascertained, the judgment of the court, upon its own view of the subject, shall be adequate and final. The negroes thus bound are (by their masters or mistresses) to be taught to read and write, and to be brought up to some useful occupation, agreeably to the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia, providing for the support of orphan and

other poor children. And I do hereby expressly forbid the sale or transportation, out of the said Commonwealth, of any slave I may be possessed of, under any pretence whatsoever. And I do, moreover, most pointedly and most solemnly enjoin it upon my executors hereafter named, or the survivor of them, to see that this clause respecting slaves, and every part thereof, be religiously fulfilled at the epoch at which it is directed to take place, without evasion, neglect, or delay, after the crops which may then be on the ground are harvested, particularly as it respects the aged and infirm ; seeing that a regular and permanent fund be established for their support, as long as there are subjects requiring it ; not trusting to the uncertain provision to be made by individuals. And to my mulatto man, William, calling himself William Lee, I give immediate freedom, or if he should prefer it, (on account of the accidents which have befallen him, and which have rendered him incapable of walking, or of any active employment,) to remain in the situation he now is, it shall be optional in him to do so ; in either case, however, I allow him an annuity of thirty dollars, during his natural life, which shall be independent of the victuals and clothes he has been accustomed to receive, if he choose the last alternative ; but in full with his freedom, if he prefers the first ; and this I give him as a testimony of my sense of his attachment to me, and for his faithful services during the revolutionary war.

*Item.*—To the trustees (governors, or by whatsoever other name they may be designated,) of the Academy, in the town of Alexandria, I give and bequeath, in trust, four thousand dollars, or in other words, twenty of the shares which I hold in the bank of Alexandria, towards the support of a Free School, established at, and annexed to, the said Academy, for the purpose of educating such orphan children, or the children of such other poor and indigent persons, as are unable to accomplish it with their own means; and who, in the judgment of the trustees of the said seminary, are best entitled to the benefit of this donation. The aforesaid twenty shares I give and bequeath in perpetuity; the dividends only of which are to be drawn for, and applied by the said trustees, for the time being, for the uses above-mentioned; the stock to remain entire and untouched, unless indications of failure of the said bank should be apparent, or a discontinuance thereof should render a removal of this fund necessary. In either of these cases, the amount of the stock here devised is to be vested in some other bank, or public institution, whereby the interest may with regularity and certainty be drawn and applied as above; and, to prevent misconception, my meaning is, and is hereby declared to be, that these twenty shares are in lieu of, and not in addition to, the thousand pounds given by a missive letter some years ago; in consequence whereof, an annuity of fifty pounds has since been paid towards the support of this institution.

*Item.*—Whereas by a law of the Commonwealth of Virginia, enacted in the year 1785, the legislature thereof was pleased, as an evidence of its approbation of the services I had rendered the public during the Revolution, and partly, I believe, in consideration of my having suggested the vast advantages which the community would derive from the extension of its inland navigation under legislative patronage, to present me with one hundred shares, of one hundred dollars each, in the incorporated company, established for the purpose of extending the navigation of James River from the tide water to the mountains; and also with fifty shares, of one hundred pounds sterling each, in the corporation of another company, likewise established for the similar purpose of opening the navigation of the River Potomac, from the tide water to Fort Cumberland; the acceptance of which, although the offer was highly honorable and grateful to my feelings, was refused, as inconsistent with a principle which I had adopted and had never departed from, viz., not to receive pecuniary compensation for any services I could render my country in its arduous struggle with Great Britain for its rights; and because I had evaded similar propositions from other States in the Union. Adding to this refusal, however, an intimation that, if it should be the pleasure of the legislature to permit me to appropriate the said shares to *public uses*, I would receive them on those terms with due sensibility; and this it having consented to, in flattering terms, as will

appear by a subsequent law and sundry resolutions, in the most ample and honorable manner, I proceed, after this recital, for the more correct understanding of the case, to declare—That, as it has always been a source of serious regret with me to see the youth of these United States sent to foreign countries for the purpose of education, often before their minds were formed, or they had imbibed any adequate ideas of the happiness of their own; contracting too frequently, not only habits of dissipation and extravagance, but principles unfriendly to republican government and to the true and genuine liberties of mankind; which thereafter are rarely overcome. For these reasons it has been my ardent wish to see a plan devised on a liberal scale, which would have a tendency to spread systematic ideas through all parts of this rising empire, thereby to do away local attachments and state prejudices, as far as the nature of things would, or indeed ought to admit, from our National Councils. Looking anxiously forward to the accomplishment of so desirable an object as this is, (in my estimation,) my mind has not been able to contemplate any plan more likely to effect the measures than the establishment of a University in a central part of the United States, to which the youths of fortune and talents from all parts thereof may be sent, for the completion of their education, in all the branches of polite literature; in arts and sciences, in acquiring knowledge in the principles of politics and good government, and, (as a matter of infinite importance



in my judgment,) by associating with each other, and forming friendships in juvenile years, be enabled to free themselves, in a proper degree, from those local prejudices and habitual jealousies which have just been mentioned; and which, when carried to excess, are never-failing sources of disquietude to the public mind, and pregnant of mischievous consequences to this country, under these impressions so fully dilated.

Among other portions of property bequeathed by Washington to his relatives and friends, are mentioned—

First—Fifty shares which he held in the Potomac company towards the endowment of an University, to be established within the limits of the District of Columbia, under the auspices of the general government.

Second—One hundred shares in James River company, to and for the use of Liberty Hall Academy, in the county of Rockbridge, in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Third—Grants a release from payment of money due to him from the estate of his deceased brother, Samuel Washington, which was due him on account of the education, board, clothing, and incidental expenses (amounting to near five thousand dollars) of the two sons of his deceased brother.

Fourth—Released and acquitted from the payment of balance due him from the estate of Bartholomew Dandridge, amounting to four hundred and twenty-five pounds.

Fifth—To his nephews, W. A. Washington, he bequeathed some land, and to B. Washington his books, pamphlets, and some papers which related to his civil and military administration.

Sixth—To the Earl of Buchan I recommit the “box made of the oak that sheltered the great Sir William Wallace, after the battle of Falkirk,” presented to me by his lordship in terms too flattering for me to repeat, with a request “to pass it, on the event of my decease, to the man in my country who should appear to merit it best, upon the same conditions that have induced him to send it to me.”

Seventh—To his brother Charles Washington he gave his gold-headed cane, left him by Dr. Franklin in his will. To his juvenile acquaintances, Lawrence and Robert Washington, he gave his two gold-headed canes and one of his spy-glasses. To his friend Dr. Craik he gave his bureau and circular chair, an appendage of his study. To David Stuart his dressing-table and telescope. “To the Rev., now Bryan, Lord Fairfax, I give a Bible, in three large folio volumes, with notes, presented to me by the Rt. Rev. T. Wilson, Bishop of Sodor and Man. To General de Lafayette I give a pair of finely-wrought steel pistols, taken from the enemy in the revolutionary war. To my sisters-in-law Hannah Washington and Mildred Washington—to my friends Eleanor Stuart, Hannah Washington, of Fairfield, and Elizabeth Washington, of Hayfield, I give each a mourning

ring, of the value of one hundred dollars. These bequests are not made for the intrinsic value of them, but as mementos of my esteem and regard. To Tobias Lear I give the use of the farm which he now holds, in virtue of a lease from me to him and his deceased wife, (for and during their natural lives,) free from rent during his life ; at the expiration of which it is to be disposed of as is hereinafter directed. To Sally B. Haynie (a distant relation of mine) I give and bequeath three hundred dollars. To Sarah Green, daughter of the deceased Thomas Bishop, and to Ann Walker, daughter of John Alton, also deceased, I give each one hundred dollars, in consideration of the attachment of their fathers to me ; each of whom having lived nearly forty years in my family. To each of my nephews, William Augustine Washington, George Lewis, George Steptoe Washington, Bushrod Washington, and Samuel Washington, I give one of the swords, or cutteaux, of which I may die possessed ; and they are to choose in the order they are named.— These swords are accompanied with an injunction not to unsheath them for the purpose of shedding blood, except it be for self-defence, or in defence of their country and its rights ; and in the latter case, to keep them unsheathed, and prefer falling with them in their hands to the relinquishment thereof.

The more important parts of his estate Washington distributed among his relatives and to their heirs, as defined in the latter part of his will.

## WASHINGTON'S RELIGIOUS THOUGHTS.

It is said that Washington was a *great man*—a man of genius, of great skill and foresight, of bold and energetic action. Was he not a *good man*?—a man of reflection, of wise council, of devotional habits—a man of prayer? When Epaminondas was asked which was the greatest man, himself or Pelopidas, he replied: “Wait till we are dead.” But the life of Washington responds to the question of his goodness. We have followed him through all the trying, perilous, suffering, private, and public periods of his life. We have seen him at home, in the cabinet, and in the field, patiently enduring the sufferings of a campaign life. We have seen him, in tears, parting with his mother; at the bedside of the dying; weeping over suffering humanity; cheering the disconsolate in the hour of gloom and distress. We have followed him to his own private retreat, and heard his voice in reading and prayer; and seen him kneel on the cold, frosty earth, in the dense forest, fervently supplicating the aid of the Divine One in behalf of his distressed country.

Scipio was urged to heroic deeds by a false ambition for a civic crown; Cæsar won his laurels, and the world did him reverence; Alexander conquered kingdom after kingdom, and his end was accomplished on receiving a brilliant crown; Cortez exposed himself to great dangers, and traversed sea

and land to gain a fortune ; Aurelius aimed for the happiness of his subjects, that he might gain their applause and wear a crown of earthly glory.

These were brave generals, cunning, wise, skillful, and successful, but whose motives, in their exploits, were based on personal aggrandizement.—Arnold was a general of military talents and skill, whose character for awhile shone like the morning star. But alas, for his haughty nature ! his great moral defects, his want of piety and principle, his honor, his glory, and every noble sentiment withered away, and every noble deed was disgraced by his treasonable conduct. Lee was a scholar, a wit, a great soldier, and generous ; but for his strange habits—a republicanism which grew out of hatred to tyrants rather than a love for the people—his defective morals, his bad manners, his awful profanity—he periled and lost all. Hamilton was a military genius, a fit statesman to rule a monarchy ; but he sought the praise of men, and, from his sense of wounded honor, stood before the pistol's mouth and fell, leaving his friends, his family, and his country to mourn his untimely end. Burr, the refined, eloquent, and brave man, bid fair to stand in the high seat of his country ; but, by one fatal act, he was disgraced, and cast out as a fallen man. We might mention a score of distinguished men who have, for the lack of that wisdom and piety which made Washington a great man, sacrificed every promising hope of usefulness.

His favorite aphorism was in accordance with his

life. "There exists," says Washington, "in the economy of nature, an inseparable connection between duty and advantage."

With a midshipman's commission in his pocket, and his baggage on board the vessel, a voice whispered, "Honor thy mother." His inclination was for the voyage, but duty to his mother changed his purpose. During his brother Augustine's illness he was devising the best means to cheer and comfort him. At times he would sit and read to him, hour after hour. And when his coughing spasms occurred, he would hold his drooping head, and wipe the cold sweat from his brow, and administer to his every want with all the patience of a Christian. When very young, Washington would listen to a father's instruction, and sit hours listening with delight to the discourses of a father on the wisdom, perfection, and glory of the Deity as displayed in the harmonious works of nature, and thus prepared for conceiving the sublime truths of Revelation. He was frequently known on the Sabbath to read the Scriptures, and pray with the regiment when the chaplain of the army was absent. One of his aids in the French war, when on a visit to his marquee, says he often found him kneeling in prayer. Rev. Mr. Lee Massy, a rector of Washington's parish, says "he never knew so constant an attendant at church," and that his reverence, while present, greatly aided him in his ministry. At his table, surrounded with guests, he did not forget to thank the Giver of all blessings.

Judge Harrison, his secretary, says that, "when- ever the general could be spared from the camp on the Sabbath, he never failed riding out to some neighboring church, to join those who were in public worshipping the great Creator." When the Americans had been fired on by the British, and several of the Americans were killed, he was heard to say : "I grieve for the death of my countrymen, but rejoice that the British are determined to keep God on our side." He uttered the sentiment recorded in several manuscripts of his own writing, that "the smiles of Heaven can never be expected on a nation that disregards the eternal rules of order and right, which Heaven itself has ordained."

When chosen President of the United States by the unanimous voice of the people, in reply to the grateful acknowledgments of Congress for his past services, he says : "When I contemplate the interposition of Providence, which was visibly manifested in guiding us through the Revolution, in preparing us for the reception of the general government, and in conciliating the good will of the people of America towards one another after its adoption, I feel myself oppressed, and almost *overwhelmed with a sense of the Divine munificence*. I feel that nothing is due to my personal agency in all those complicated and wonderful events, except what can simply be attributed to the exertions of an honest zeal for the good of my country."

When standing before Congress in his official capacity for the first time, when they met to devise

means for preserving the Union of the States and harmony with foreign powers, and how best to secure the blessings of civil and religious liberty, "It would," he says, "be peculiarly improper to omit, in this first official act, my fervent supplications to that Almighty Being who rules over the universe, who presides in the councils of nations, and whose providential aids can supply every human defect, that His benediction may consecrate to the liberties and happiness of the people of the United States." "In tendering this homage to the Great Author of every public and private good, I assure myself that it expresses your sentiments not less than my own. No people can be bound to acknowledge and adore the invisible hand which conducts the affairs of men more than the people of the United States." When closing this admirable address, he resorts once more "to the benign Parent of the human race in humble supplication" for His favor to the American people.

"Of all the dispositions and habits," says Washington, "religion is the indispensable support.—Volumen could not trace all its connections with private and public happiness. And, "whatever a sense of honor may do on men of refined education and on minds of a peculiar structure, reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principles."



## BOSTON.

As far back as the year 1676, one hundred years before the Declaration of Independence, the court of the colony had distinctly declared the fundamental principle of the Revolution, that "taxation without representation was an invasion of the rights, liberties, and property of the subjects of his Majesty." In 1634, the first beacon was placed on Sentry Hill, to give the people warning of approaching danger; and a committee was appointed this year to draw up the first body of laws for the colony.

To the people of Middlesex county belongs the honor of carrying out the resolutions made in Faneuil Hall on the 26th and 27th of August, 1774. The preamble asserted that "we were entitled to life, liberty, and the means of sustenance, by the grace of Heaven, without the king's leave; and that the late act had robbed them of the most essential rights of British subjects."

Revolution had commenced, and the first stirring movement was started by General Gage, in removing from the powder house in Charlestown, on Quarry Hill, by the means of boats, one hundred and fifty barrels of powder, and landing it on Temple's farm. This fact excited the citizens of Boston to much indignation. The removal of the powder was magnified into a report that the British had cannonaded into Boston. The bells rang, beacon fires blazed on the hills, the colonies were greatly

alarmed, and the roads were crowded with armed men, rushing to the supposed point of danger. The time for action had arrived. Boston had been everywhere distinguished for its rights, and every infringement was watched with a jealous eye. It was now filled with bold, enterprising men, who had established its policy on the foundation of civil independence and religious liberty.

The natural features of the metropolis were almost unchanged. The original peninsula, with its one broad avenue by land, to connect it with the beautiful country by which it was surrounded, had sufficiently accommodated its population. Beacon Hill and its neighboring eminences were then mere pasture grounds, where grew the wild rose and the barbary bush. Copps Hill, one of the earliest spots visited by the Pilgrims, and Fort Hill, memorable for the imprisonment of Andros and his associates, were also of their original height; and much of the whole town was overrun by the tide, and divided out into gardens.

Boston was called the most flourishing town in all British America. Its government was peculiar to New England. As Tudor says, "The people were the subjects of a distant monarch; but royalty was merely in theory with them." Originally the inhabitants of the towns managed their affairs in a general meeting, but afterwards acted by an executive body of seven selectmen. In 1636, the general court recognized the towns, and regulated their offices and powers. The selectmen were first

chosen for six months, and subsequently for a year. "In this land of bustling," says a physician, "am I safe arrived, among the most social, polite, and sensible people under heaven; to strangers friendly and kind, to Englishmen most generously so. War, that evil, looks all around us; the country expect it, and are prepared to die freemen rather than live what they call slaves."

The population of Boston at this time was about seventeen thousand, and generally of English extraction, and in the enjoyment of equal privileges. In the common schools, at public meetings, social gatherings, and in the different vocations of life, the people met as equals, in a kind of common brotherhood. Comfort and enterprise distinctly marked the private dwellings of the community.

#### BOSTON PATRIOTS.

These men were distinguished for their primitive manners, great faith, purity of life, and uncompromising principles. Those who stood foremost in the cause of liberty, and devoted themselves to the maintenance of freemen's rights and privileges we notice :—

SAMUEL ADAMS.—A great reformer; a member of the Continental Congress; a man of stern decision and integrity of purpose, and whose voice was heard in the midst of party factions. During

the excitement of the Boston Massacre he was most active, and through his influence chiefly were the British troops removed from Boston. He was one of the number who matured the secret plan of proposing a general Congress and appointing delegates. The Governor, hearing of this movement, sent his secretary from Salem to dissolve that body in general assembly, when he, on arriving, found the door locked, and the key safely lodged in Adams' pocket. When offered a magnificent consideration if he would cease his hostilities to government, from Fenton, as the messenger of civil authorities, he sent word back, saying: "I trust I have long since made my peace with the King of kings. No personal consideration shall induce me to abandon the righteous cause of my country. Tell Governor Gage it is the advice of Samuel Adams no longer to insult the feelings of an exasperated people."

JAMES OTIS—So vehement in support of free-men's rights, that the British called him mad. Of such pure patriotism and stirring eloquence, that the people heard him with profound reverence. He was a man of fine genius; but was made a wreck by a cruel blow from an enemy.

JOHN ADAMS.—His brilliant services in the halls of Congress were appreciated by the people; and, as a man of eloquence and learned in the law, he was ready by his voice and his pen to defend the rights of the people. A loftier genius, a purer pat-

riot never wore the senatorial garment during the struggle for independence. The confidence of Congress in him was unlimited. He was at one time entrusted with the execution of six missions, each of a different character ; and was associated with Franklin, Jay, and Laurens as a commissioner to conclude treaties of peace with the European powers. The last words which fell from his lips were uttered on the morning of the 4th of July—*“ Independence for ever ! ”*

JOHN HANCOCK.—From his local positions, his mercantile associations, his great wealth, and love of freedom, he was influential in every enterprise which favored the comfort, peace, and happiness of the colonies. The night preceding the battle of Lexington, Hancock and Adams lodged together in that town. Gage sent an armed party to arrest them, and, as the soldiers entered one door, they escaped through the other. When Governor Bernard tried to win him from the side of the patriots, and had complimented him with a lieutenant's commission, Hancock, seeing his nefarious design, took his commission from his pocket and tore it up in the presence of the people.

ROBERT TREAT PAINE.—A distinguished patriot, and son of a clergyman. He advocated a Continental Congress, and, in 1774, was elected a member of the Provincial Congress of Massachusetts. In 1790, he was appointed Judge of the Supreme

Court, and aided in framing the constitution of his native State. His long and active life was consecrated to public service. Having discharged his duties as judge, he left the office, in 1804, in consequence of infirmities, and died in 1814, aged eighty-four years.

JOSEPH WARREN—A celebrated physician, of agreeable manners, and much beloved as a friend and adviser. He early cherished the great principles of liberty, and fell, in his enthusiasm for freedom, on the field of battle, an early martyr to the cause. He was a member of several committees, and having met on the committee of safety for Boston, and hearing the British were attacking the works on Breed's Hill, he shouldered his musket, and hastened to Charlestown. There he met Putnam, who directed him to the redoubt, saying,—“There you will be covered.” “Don't think,” said Warren, “I come to seek a place of safety; but tell me where the onset will be the most furious.” He hastened to the spot, mingled in the hottest of the battle, where a ball struck him in the forehead, and he fell to the ground. Mrs. Adams says: “Not all the havoc and devastation they have made has wounded me like the death of Warren. We want him in the senate, we want him in his profession, we want him in the field.” As a patriot and a man, he was beloved and highly esteemed—“A man whose memory,” says a member of the committee of safety, “will be endeared to his

countrymen and to the worthy in every part and age of the world." On the capture of the redoubt, Colonel Small endeavored to save the life of Warren, and, seeing him fall, ran towards him, spoke to him ; but he only looked up, *smiled*, and *died*.

In a eulogium on Warren the following passage indicates that Warren's last words were addressed to Captain John Chester, of Connecticut, who was a brave officer at the battle of Bunker Hill :—

" Chester, 'tis past. All earthly prospects fly :  
Death smiles, and points me to yon radiant sky ;  
My friends, my country force a tender tear,  
Rush to my thoughts, and claim my parting care."

**JOSIAH QUINCY, JR.**—Called the "Boston Cicero"—true to the cause of freedom, and full in the conviction that his countrymen would be compelled to seal their labors with their blood. He went on a confidential mission to England ; but on his return he was called to yield up his spirit, when in sight of his own native land.

**THOMAS CUSHING.**—A man of extensive personal influence among business men—a delegate to the Continental Congress. His name was extensively known in England by its being fixed to public documents. Dr. Johnson says, in a ministerial paper, that "one object of the Americans was to adorn Cushing's brow with a diadem."

WILLIAM PHILLIPS.—A merchant of irreproachable character, and for thirty years a deacon of the Old South church. He was an active and efficient man in the public service, and contributed largely of his property to aid the cause of freedom, religion, and education.

PAUL REVERE.—An ingenious goldsmith, a confidential messenger of the patriots, and a distinguished leader of the mechanics.

There were other zealous patriots, equally deserving of notice, who were employed in public service, and zealous in attempting to preserve the social system, which had found a basis on human equality, in this new world. Benjamin Church, Nathaniel Appleton, James Bowdoin, Oliver Wendall, John Pitts, James Lovell, William Cooper, William Molineaux, Benjamin Austin, Nathaniel Barber, Gibbons Sharpe, David Jeffries, Henry Hill, Henderson Inches, Jonathan Mason, Timothy Newell, William Powell, John Rowe, John Schollay. These asked for the old paths, and claimed the ancient rights of their town and the colonies of the State.

#### SUFFERING IN BOSTON.

When Major Hawley made the declaration,—  
“We must fight, and make preparation for it,”  
Patrick Henry replied: “I am of that man’s mind.”  
This was the key-note to the calamity that was fast



hastening. The town of Boston presented a different aspect in all its business affairs, and the happy homes and cheerful firesides were overcast with a gloomy atmosphere. Parental hearts beat with intense anxiety at the future prospects of their sons. The wharves were deserted, trade dull, and the hearts of business men failed them for fear of coming events. The Port Bill had cut off all foreign trade, and checked the whole of its domestic operations. Not a raft or keel was allowed to approach the town with merchandise. All the stores on Long wharf and many others were closed. The neck of Boston was beset with soldiers, and the cannon mounted. The poor saw their fate, while those who possessed a competence were fast coming to want. It was a trying season, when there was no demand for the products of labor. The town was surrounded by a hostile fleet, while a formidable army was fast gathering within. Its fields and pastures were covered with tents, and the troops were daily parading its streets. Mrs. Adams wrote a letter at this time, saying: "I view it with much the same sensations that I should the body of a departed friend—as having only put off its present glory to rise finally to a more happy state." Its supplies came in from the country, with words of encouragement and expressions of confidence in ultimate triumph over their oppressors. Town meetings were continued, and patriots, true to their resolutions, united in strength to act in such a manner as would most likely preserve their liber-

ties. This astonished Gage, to see the spirit of union prevailing in Massachusetts, and its inhabitants gaining friends in New York and Philadelphia. This led to a general convention at Salem, and to the organization of

### THE "MINUTE MEN."

These men were drilled into discipline, to be ready for any emergency. Commanded by Captain Davis, deacon of the Danvers parish, with his minister for lieutenant, they repaired to the field for exercise, then marched to the meeting-house to hear a patriotic discourse. A company of minute men was formed in the town of Lunenburg, "consisting of fifty-seven able-bodied men, who appeared in arms, and, after going through the several military manœuvres, they marched to a public house, where the officers provided a dinner, and from thence to the meeting-house, where a sermon, suitable to the occasion, was delivered by the Rev. Mr. Adams, from Psalms xxvii: 3."

Preparations were continually made for action by the forming of a militia, or minute men, from the different towns. Organized and ready for action, obeying every call to parade, sometimes waiting to receive parting blessings from their ministers, and to take leave of their weeping friends, they entered into the service for which they were called, and were found active in the various skirmishes and

battles at Concord, Lincoln, Lexington, Cambridge, and Charlestown. And on reaching the common of the latter town, when pursuing the regulars, General Heath ordered them to stop. The battle of Bunker Hill was fast approaching. A scene of intense interest and excitement prevailed

#### IN CHARLESTOWN.

The inhabitants had heard of the events which had just transpired at Lexington and Concord. "The schools were dismissed, and citizens gathered in groups in the streets. Dr. Warren rode through the town, and gave the certain intelligence of the slaughter at Lexington ;—a large number went out to the fields, and the greater part who remained were women and children. It was reported that Cambridge bridge had been taken up, and that the regulars would be obliged to return to Boston through the town. Many prepared to leave, and every vehicle was employed to carry away their most valuable effects ; others determined to remain and abide the worst. Just before sunset the noise of distant firing was heard, and soon the British troops were seen on the Cambridge road. The inhabitants rushed towards the neck ; some crossed Mystic River ; some ran along the marsh towards Medford ; and the troops soon approached the town, firing as they came along. The inhabitants turned back into the town, panic-struck. Report went

through the town that the Britons were massacring the women and children. Some remained in the streets, speechless with terror; others ran to the clay pits back of Breed's Hill, where they passed the night."

Dr. Prince, of Salem, relates that, as he was standing with a party of armed men at Charlestown Neck, a person, enveloped in a cloak, rode up on horseback, inquired the news, and passed on; but, spurring the horse, the animal started forward so suddenly, caused the rider to raise his arms, throw up the cloak, and thus reveal his uniform. The men instantly leveled their guns to fire, when Dr. Prince exclaimed: "Don't fire at him! He is my friend Small—a fine fellow." It was Major Small, with an express from the army. He passed unhurt, and went safe to Boston.

#### BUNKER HILL.

On Friday, the 16th of June, the commanders of the army began preparations to fortify Bunker Hill. At the time appointed the soldiers under Colonel William Prescott paraded on Cambridge green, and, after prayer was offered by President Langdon, of Harvard College, they commenced a steady march to Charlestown. It was evening; and the colonel, clad in a simple uniform, with a blue coat and a three-cornered hat, was attended by two sergeants with dark lanterns; the entrenching tools followed

in the rear. They moved on in great silence till they halted at Charlestown Neck, where they were joined by Brooks, Putnam, and another officer. Prescott called together the field officers, and communicated his orders. After much consultation it was agreed that Breed's Hill should be fortified, and works erected also on Bunker Hill. Here the packs were thrown off, the guns stacked, the plan of fortifications marked out, tools arranged, and the men set to work. As they were working that night under the star-lighted canopy, the opposite shore of Boston was lined with sentinels, and the British men-of-war were moored in the bay, and among them were the *Falcon*, the *Lively*, the *Glasgow*, and the *Cerberus*. Caution and silence were needed at this time while the soldiers employed the spade and pickaxe. One man at work states that he heard the British sentinels, at intervals, all night giving the watchword, "*All's well.*" Brooks and Prescott went down twice to the margin of the river that night, when they heard the watch on board the British vessels giving the usual cry. In the morning the sailors on board these ships saw, to their utter surprise, entrenchments to the height of six feet, the work of a *single night*. The captain of the *Lively*, without orders, fired upon the fortifications; the British soldiers aroused, and the whole population of Boston, awaking from their slumbers, came forth to witness the beginning of the—

## SEVENTEENTH OF JUNE.

All eyes were fixed on the redoubt which crowned the summit of Bunker Hill. The men were still at work inside the fortifications, preparing platforms to stand on, while the British cannon tore up its sides with bombs and balls. In less than two hours after the rising of the sun, the whole artillery of the city, the cannon on board the ships of war, and the floating batteries were aimed towards this single structure. But the workmen kept on until they had run a trench nearly down to Mystic River on the north. Martin says, "about a thousand were at work," and that "the men dug in the trenches one hour, and then mounted guard and were relieved." They could not work in the open field under a shower of bullets: there was one unprotected spot, a meadow, freshly mown, and studded with hay-cocks. A single rail fence crossed it from the hill to the river, of which Putnam took advantage. He ordered the men to take some of the rails near by and run them through this, and pile on the hay. Soon this rail fence became a huge embankment.

The cannonade from the British failed to rout the American army, which lay stretched over and down the hill, nerved with the valor of freemen. Early in the day one private was killed, Asa Polard, of Billerica. He was ordered to be buried. "What!" said an officer; "without prayer?" A chaplain insisted on performing service over the

first victim, collected some soldiers around him, when Prescott ordered them to disperse.

The day was warm ; not a cloud settled on the sky as the British army had crossed the channel, and stood in battle array on the shore. The roar of cannon from Moreton's Hill, the thrilling strains of martial music, the stirring blast of the bugle, the nodding plumes and waving standards, with nearly five thousand bayonets glittering in the sunlight, and the commanding officers mounted in the saddle, gave to the whole area of Bunker Hill a scene on which the eye had never before gazed. The excitement of this hour was intense ; fifteen hundred sons of Liberty were behind their entrenchments over the hill, coolly awaiting the premeditated onset of the enemy.

Imagine the troops embarking at Long wharf and at the North Battery, and the fleet, with their field-pieces in the leading barges, moving towards Charlestown ; the sun shining in splendor, the regular movements of the boats, flags flying, guns glistening, and soldiers all equipped for the attack, and you may conceive of the imposing spectacle which appeared on the bosom of the channel at 12 o'clock on the memorable seventeenth of June. The army landed at Moulton's Point, and immediately formed into three lines. Spectators lined the shores, mounted the roofs of houses, and filled every church steeple, to gaze on the American entrenchments and witness the array along the shore. How many earnest prayers ascended to Heaven, how many

hearts beat with mingled emotions of hope and fear as the

#### COLUMNS ADVANCE.

The main body of the troops formed at Moulton's Point, waited quietly for the arrival of reinforcements. When the barges returned it was nearly three o'clock, and about three thousand troops had now landed. The time for advancing had come. General Howe had command of the right wing, and General Pigot of the left,—the latter intending to storm the breastworks and redoubt. Howe ordered six field-pieces to be loaded with twelve-pound balls. The British soldiers began to advance in two dense columns. Their progress was slow, being obstructed by the tall grass and the fences, burdened with crowded knapsacks, and relaxed by the scorching sun.

The Americans waited their approach. Putnam was riding along their lines, encouraging them to be firm, and charging them not to fire a shot till the enemy was within eight rods. Johnson says he distinctly heard him say, "Don't one of you fire till you see the white of their eyes." The enemy continued to advance in perfect order and brilliant array, now and then halting to let the artillery play on the entrenchments. At once all was silent; the cannon's roar had ceased for a few moments, and the two armies were facing each other. Soon the signal of "*Fire!*" was given, and a simultaneous



discharge from the redoubt and breastwork did a terrible work among the British ranks. After bearing up against the American fire, the whole British army, rank after rank, broke and retreated to the shore ; and a thousand huzzas echoed in the air from the redoubt, and were answered from the people who thronged the roofs of houses, steeples of churches, and the heights of Boston. The discomfited troops along the shore were again rallied by their officers, while Putnam spurred his horse and galloped off in his shirt-sleeves for reinforcements. But the severe fire which swept over Charlestown Neck deterred the soldiers from crossing. It is said that Putnam rode back and forth several times "while the balls ploughed up the earth in furrows around him."

A second attack was made, when the British ranks were again riddled by balls ; they broke and fled the second time. At this crisis, Charlestown was set on fire, by shells thrown from Copps Hill by a party of marines from the ship "Somerset ;" the air was filled with dense clouds of smoke, and the slope in front of the American breastworks was covered with the wounded and the dead. For the third and last time General Howe, a gallant officer and of commanding figure, led the grenadiers and light infantry in front of the breastwork, while Clinton and Pigot led on the extreme left of the troops to scale the redoubt. The soldiers threw aside their knapsacks, and, with fixed bayonets, marched steadily up the hill to the entrenchments.

One volley from the enemy, and the Americans fired their last cartridges, and slackened for the want of ammunition. The redoubt was soon scaled by General Pigot, who, by the aid of a tree, mounted one corner of it, closely followed by his men. Prescott, among the last to leave it, was surrounded by the enemy, whose bayonets he skillfully parried with his sword. The British took possession of the works, and opened a destructive fire upon the retreating troops. Warren, having planted himself in front of his own troops, received a shot from an English officer, when he fell and expired, and was left on the field.\* The English took possession of the field; but the Americans gained the victory. This battle on Bunker Hill is recorded as the grand opening scene in the American Revolution.

#### WASHINGTON AND THE ARMY.

Washington was on his way to the army when the news of the battle at Bunker Hill reached him. He arrived at Cambridge, July 2d, about two o'clock, escorted by a cavalcade of citizens and a troop of light horse. "It was not difficult," says Mr. Thacher, "to distinguish him from all others. Being tall and well proportioned, his personal appearance is truly noble and majestic. His dress is

\* The next day, among the visitors who went to the battlefield were Dr. Jeffries and Young Winslow; they recognized the body of Warren, and it was buried on the spot where he fell.

a blue coat with buff-colored facings, a rich epaulette on each shoulder, buff under-dress, and an elegant small sword, and a black cockade in his hat."

The army was at this time in a confused state, and Washington took command of a body of armed men rather than an army of regular ranks of soldiers. They were men of labor and full of patriotic zeal, but with hardly powder enough to supply each man with nine cartridges. There was no general organization, discipline was wanting, and offences were frequent. He commenced remodeling the army, bringing the soldiers into systematic action. The army was arranged into three grand divisions, each consisting of two brigades, or twelve regiments. The right wing of the army was put under the command of Major-general Ward, and consisted of two brigades. The left wing was placed under the command of Major-general Lee, who had under him General Greene, stationed at Prospect Hill, and General Sullivan, at Winter Hill. The centre was stationed at Cambridge, and commanded by Major-general Putnam.

At this time the environs of Boston presented an animating sight. An officer in Boston says: "The country is most beautifully tumbled about in hills and valleys, rocks and woods, interspersed with straggling villages, with here and there a spire peeping over the trees, and the country of the most charming green that delighted eye ever gazed on." The hills were studded with white tents, glittering

bayonets, and frowning cannon; and a small portion of the navy lay on the bosom waters of the harbor.

Rev. William Emerson, whose quarters were at the foot of Prospect Hill, gives a description of the camp after the arrival of Washington. He says, "There is a great overturning in the camp as to order and regularity—Washington and Lee are upon the lines every day. New orders from his Excellency are read to the respective regiments every morning after prayers. Every one is made to know his place and keep in it. Thousands are at work every day from four till eleven o'clock in the morning. Who would have thought, twelve months past that all Cambridge and Charlestown would be covered over with American camps, and cut up into forts and entrenchments, and all the lands, fields, and orchards laid common—horses and cattle feeding in the choicest mowing land, whole fields of corn eaten down to the ground, and large parks of well regulated locusts cut down for firewood, and other public uses. It is very diverting to walk among the camps. They are as different in their form, as the owners are in their dress; and every tent is a portraiture of the temper and the tastes of the persons who encamp in it. Some are made of boards and others of sail cloths, some of turf, birch, or brush. Some are thrown up in a hurry, others curiously wrought with doors and windows, made with wreaths and withes, in the manner of a basket. Some are your proper

tents and marquees, looking like the regular camp of the enemy.”\*

### BOSTON IN GLOOM.

When Boston was occupied by the British soldiers, it presented a most deplorable condition. Its hills and lawns were dotted with hostile cannon, and insolent soldiers occupied its peaceable dwellings, profaned its temples of worship, and demolished some of its buildings for fuel. Faneuil Hall was made a play-house and many patriotic citizens were reduced to want, and even deprived of the relief which their friends would gladly have imparted. General Howe at one time sent three hundred men, women, and children, (poor of the town of Boston,) over to Chelsea, without any thing to subsist on, at an inclement season of the year, having only six cattle left in the town for food. All the public institutions, the press, pursuits of commerce, schools and churches were interrupted.—The sound of cannon, every evening and morning, were heard from Beacon Hill, with the roll of drums, as the relief guards marched to their duties. Some of the meeting-houses were converted into barracks.† The old North Meeting-House, and a

\* Frothingham's Siege of Boston.

† The Old South Church was formed into a riding school, Hollis Street, Brattle Street, the West and the First Baptist Meeting-Houses were occupied as hospitals or barracks for the troops.

hundred other wooden buildings were taken down, and distributed for firewood. Poverty and disease reduced the soldiers and inhabitants to great distress.

The time had come, from the condition of both armies to bring matters to a close, by the most decisive action. Changes in the army were constantly taking place and many of the old regiments were hurrying home, with feelings of discontent, patience exhausted, and hope gone. From these circumstances and from others, this season was one of great anxiety to Washington, as his letter to Congress proves.

JAN. 14. "The reflection upon my situation, and that of this army, produces many an uneasy hour, when all around me *are wrapped in sleep*. Few people know the predicament we are in, on a thousand accounts; fewer still will believe, if any disaster happen to these lines, from what cause it flows. I have often thought how much happier I should have been, if instead of accepting a command under such circumstances, I had taken my musket on my shoulder and entered the ranks, or if I could have justified the measure to posterity and my own conscience, had retired to the back country, and lived in a wigwam. If I shall be able to rise superior to these and many other difficulties which might be enumerated, I shall most religiously believe that the finger of Providence is in it."

When the army was weak and scantily supplied,

a resolution was passed by Congress, Dec. 22d, authorizing Washington to attack the British troops in the "best manner he might think expedient." President Hancock, who had large property in Boston, wrote to him—"May God crown your attempt with success. I most heartily wish it though I may be the greatest sufferer."

The eyes of the whole continent were fixed upon Washington, and many prayers ascended to Heaven in his behalf. With much wisdom, foresight and deliberation did he plan for the enterprise.\* The interest which he felt in the coming movement, the importance he attached to a right preparation among his soldiers, will be seen by an extract from his orders, dated February 26, 1776.

"All officers, non-commissioned officers and soldiers, are positively forbid at cards and other games of chance. At this time of public distress, men may find enough to do in the service of their God and their country without abandoning themselves to vice and immorality. As the season is now fast approaching when every man must expect to be drawn into the field of action, it is highly important that he should prepare his *mind*, as well as every thing necessary for it."

\* The American troops were accommodated in barracks this winter. At Prospect Hill, Roxbury, Dorchester, Sewall's Point, at Cambridge Barracks, Winter Hill, in the Old and New Colleges, North Chapel, and at different places, Inman's house, &c.

In the beginning of March, there were indications of an approaching conflict. "Chandeliers, fascines, and screwed hay, were collected for entrenching purposes. A large quantity of bandages were prepared to dress broken limbs; forty-five batteaux, each capable of carrying eighty men, and two floating batteries were assembled in Charles River, and militia men were coming into the camp from the neighboring towns.

#### BOSTON EVACUATED.

When the morning of March 5th dawned on the heights of Boston, the British soldiers were surprised to see the redoubts which had been thrown up by the Americans during the previous night, and presenting a serious aspect to their expectations. General Howe said, "The rebels have done more in one night than my whole army would have done in a month," and Lord Dartmouth says, "It must have been the employment of at least twelve thousand men." One of his officers wrote: "They were raised with an expedition equal to that of the Genii belonging to Alladdin's wonderful lamp." There were now but two alternatives—either for the British to evacuate the town, or to drive the Americans from their works.—"Howe entertained a high sense of British pride and knew well that he was the commander of a powerful force, sufficient to overpower almost any



foe. He resolved to muster his energies and attack the new works of the Americans. He accordingly made his arrangements, and put under the command of the brave Earl Percy, a body of twenty-four hundred men, and ordered them to embark for Castle William and make an attack upon the new fortifications.

It was now a season of intense interest to Washington, as he beheld the surrounding heights crowded with spectators, fearful that the scenes of Bunker Hill might be enacted again. The works had been made strong; and rows of barrels filled with earth had been placed in front of the works ready to roll upon the enemy down the steep hills. When Washington came upon the ground, he said to the soldiers, "Remember it is the fifth of March."—He fully expected a battle. The attack was delayed by a storm coming up in the afternoon, and preventing the British ships from reaching the place of their destination, the surf was so great that the boats were unable to land. The next day the wind was high, and the rain excessive. On the 7th of March, Howe's fleet was unable to ride with safety in the harbor. Such was his critical situation, that he convened his officers in council, and on this day he resolved to evacuate Boston. He immediately commenced preparations for departure. The heavy artillery was dismounted, spiked, or thrown into the sea, and some of the works demolished. A letter states, "It was not like the breaking up of a camp, where every man knows his duty;

it was like departing from your country, with your wives, your servants, your household furniture, and all your encumbrances." Howe had already threatened to destroy Boston in case his army was assailed—his ships appeared around it in fearful array, and some fears were expressed lest his threat might be put into execution.

The troops were now in Boston waiting for a fair wind by which they might depart; during this waiting time, the soldiers done some mischief by defacing furniture, damaging goods, and breaking open stores. March 16th, Washington brought matters to a crisis. He fortified Nook's Hill by a strong detachment. The British fired into it during the night, but the Americans maintained their ground, without returning the fire.\* The next Sunday, March 17th, Howe commenced early in the morning the embarkation of his army.

Washington watched all their movements, till two men, who were sent forward to reconnoitre Bunker Hill, and who found the fortress left in charge of wooden sentinels, gave the welcome signal that Boston was evacuated. A detachment of troops was ordered forward to take possession of it, while the remainder waited at Cambridge. Another party, of about five hundred men, under the command of Colonel Larnard, marched from Rox-

\* A British officer writes—"It was lucky for the inhabitants of Boston, for I am informed that every thing was prepared to set the town in a blaze had they fired one cannon."

bury, unbarred and opened the gates, and entered Boston, Ensign Richards bearing the standard.

On the 20th, the main body of the army marched into Boston and "the inhabitants," says Mr. Thrasher, "appeared at their doors and windows; and though they manifested a lively joy at being liberated from their long confinement, they were not altogether free from a melancholy gloom which ten months siege had spread over their countenances." On the 22d, a multitude of people crowded into town. "It is truly interesting," says the same author, "to witness the tender interviews and fond embraces of those who have been long separated under circumstances so peculiarly distressing."

#### AMERICAN CONGRATULATIONS.

The evacuation of Boston occasioned great joy in the colonies. It was regarded as a great triumph, reflecting the highest honor on Washington and his army. Congratulations were sent him from every quarter. The following address was presented him from the selectmen of Boston :—

*May it please your Excellency :*

The selectmen of Boston, in behalf of themselves and fellow-citizens, with all grateful respect congratulate your Excellency on the success of your military operations, in the recovery of this town from an enemy, collected from the once respected

Britons, who, in this instance, are characterized by malice and fraud, rapine and plunder, in every trace left behind them. Happy are we that this acquisition has been made with so little effusion of human blood, which, next to the Divine favor, permit us to ascribe to your Excellency's wisdom, evidenced in every part of the long besiegement. If it be possible to enhance the noble feelings of that person, who, from the most affluent enjoyments, could throw himself into the hardships of a camp to save his country, uncertain of success, 't is then possible this victory will heighten your Excellency's happiness, when you consider you have not only saved a large, elegant, and once populous city from total destruction, but relieved the few wretched inhabitants from all the horrors of a besieged town, from the insults and abuses of a chagrined and disgraced army, and restored many inhabitants to their quiet habitations, who had fled for safety to the bosom of their country.

May your Excellency live to see the just rights of America settled on a firm basis, which felicity we sincerely wish you, and, at a late period, may that felicity be changed into happiness eternal !

Signed,

JOHN SCOLLAY,  
THOMAS MARSHALL,  
OLIVER WENDALL,

TIMOTHY NEWELL,  
SAMUEL AUSTIN,  
JOHN PITTS,  
*Selectmen of Boston.*

To this address Washington replied, closing with

these words : "I heartily pray that the hand of tyranny may never more disturb your repose, and that every blessing of a kind Providence may give happiness and prosperity to the town of Boston."

On March 29th, a joint committee from the Council and House of Representatives of Massachusetts, waited upon Washington with a long and flattering testimonial, concluding as follows : "May you still go on approved by Heaven, revered by all good men, and dreaded by those tyrants who claim their fellow-men as their property. May you in retirement enjoy that peace and satisfaction of mind which always attend the good and the great ; and may future generations, in the peaceable enjoyment of that freedom, in the exercise of which you shall have established, raise the richest and most lasting monuments to the name of Washington."

When Congress received the intelligence of the evacuation of Boston, March 25th, they immediately passed a vote of thanks, on motion of John Adams, to Washington and the officers and soldiers under his command, for their wise and spirited conduct ; and ordered a gold medal to be struck and presented to the general. The medal was struck in Paris, from a die cut by Duvivier, containing on the obverse a head of Washington, exhibiting an excellent likeness, and around it the inscription :—

GEORGIO WASHINGTON, SUPREMO DVCI EXERCITVVM  
ADSEPTORI LIBERATIS COMITIA AMERICANA.

On the reverse is the town of Boston in the distance, with a fleet in view, under sail. Washington

and his officers are on horseback in the foreground, and he is pointing to the ships as they leave the harbor.

#### CONDITION OF BOSTON.

Two hours after the British left, Dr. Warren entered Boston. He says : " The houses I found to be considerably abused where they had been inhabited by the common soldiery. The streets were clean, and upon the whole the town looks much better than I expected. Several hundred houses were pulled down, but these were very old ones." The house of President Hancock contained his family pictures, which remained unhurt, and the furniture was left in tolerable good order. The interior of many houses were badly used.

Deacon Newell's diary has the following record of the Old South meeting-house, which was occupied for a riding school : " The pulpit, pews, and seats all cut to pieces, and carried off; the beautiful carved pew, with the silk furniture, of Deacon Hubbard's was taken down and carried to ——'s house by an officer, and used for a hog-stye." The south door was closed ; a bar was fixed, over which the horses leaped at full speed. Spectators occupied the east galleries, and the west gallery was occupied for a refreshment room. In the winter a stove was put up, which consumed many of the books and manuscripts of Prince's fine library. The old parsonage was demolished, and used for fire-

wood. The Old North chapel, which was built in 1677, in good repair, was pulled down; and the steeple of the West church, built of heavy timber, was also taken down, and used for fuel. The "Liberty Tree" furnished fourteen cords of wood. The Common was much disfigured; many portions of it were turned up into fortifications. Shot and shells were found in various parts of the town.—Some cartridges, large quantities of wheat and hay, oil, medicines, and horses, and other articles were left, to a large amount. Such was once the condition of the "Beautiful City." "Peace be within her walls and prosperity within her palaces."

#### THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT.

A suitable site for the National Monument having been granted by Congress, the Board of Managers soon after adopted a resolution, declaring that the corner-stone of the proposed structure should be laid on the 4th of July, 1848, as the day most appropriate to so patriotic an object. The address was delivered by Hon. R. C. Winthrop.

Mr. Thomas Symington, of Baltimore, influenced by a spirit of patriotism, presented to the society a massive block of marble, weighing 24,500 pounds, taken from his quarry near that city, for the corner-stone.

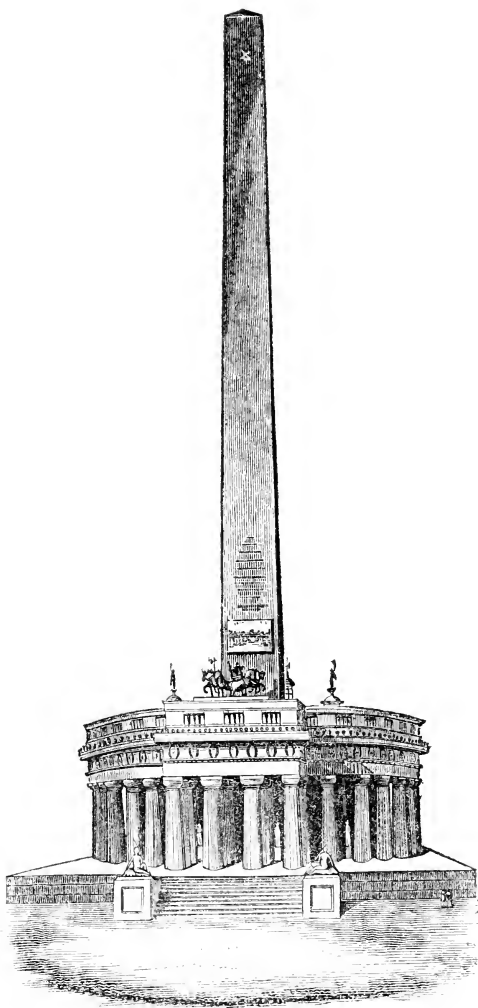
The procession, which was decidedly the most splendid ever witnessed in Washington, was about

an hour in reaching the site of the monument, where every thing was in readiness to lay the stone, which forms the commencement of a structure, which, it is hoped, will endure till time shall close. During its advance the bells of the city continued to toll solemnly. In the procession were delegations of the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Creek, and Sawbridge Indians, who brought with them silver medals, struck in 1786, representing Washington in the act of shaking hands with the red man, and under whose administration their forefathers made some of the earliest treaties of peace.

Among the numerous articles deposited under the corner-stone when laid, were two daguerreotype likenesses of Washington and his wife.

Our artist has given an accurate picture of the National Washington Monument as it will appear when completed, and the reader will observe at once the magnitude of the design and its remarkable architectural beauty. The plan embraces the idea of a grand circular colonnade building, two hundred and fifty feet in diameter, and one hundred feet high, from which springs an obelisk shaft, seventy feet at the base, and five hundred feet high, forming a monument, for magnitude of design and perfection of style, unrivaled in the world. The vast rotunda, forming the grand base of the monument, is surrounded by thirty columns of massive proportions, being twelve feet in diameter and forty-five feet high.







A tetrastyle portico (four columns in front) forms the entrance to the monument, and serves as a pedestal for the triumphal car and statue of the illustrious chief; the steps of this portico are flanked by massive blockings, surmounted by figures and trophies. The statues around the rotunda outside, are all elevated upon pedestals, and will be those of the memorable signers of the Declaration of Independence.

In the centre is the lofty obelisk shaft of the monument, seventy feet square at the base, and five hundred feet high, diminishing as it rises to its apex, where it is forty feet square. On each face of the shaft is sculptured the four leading events of General Washington's eventful career *in basso relievo*, and above this the shaft is perfectly plain to within fifty feet of its summit, where a simple star is placed, emblematic of the reputation which the name of Washington has attained.

In the centre of the monument is placed the tomb of Washington, to receive his remains; the descent to which is by a broad flight of steps, lighted by the same light which illumines his statue. Altogether the spot will possess a national interest that will be shared in by every lover of freedom, for the sake of him whose life and deeds it commemorates.

The language of Webster in reference to the capitol, is equally applicable to the monument:—  
“ It becomes connected with all the historical associations of our country, with her statesmen and her

orators ; and, alas ! its cemetery is annually enriched with the ashes of her chosen sons. Before us is the broad and beautiful river, separating two of the original thirteen States, and which a late President, a man of determined purpose and inflexible will, but patriotic heart, desired to span with arches of ever-enduring granite, symbolical of the firmly cemented Union of the North and South. On its banks repose the ashes of the Father of his Country, and at our side, by a singular felicity of position, overlooking the city which he designed and which bears his name, rises to his memory the marble column, sublime in its simple grandeur, and fitly intended to reach a loftier height than any similar structure on the surface of the whole earth. Let the votive offering of his grateful countrymen be freely contributed to carry higher and still higher this monument. May I say, as on another occasion : ‘ Let it rise ! let it rise ! till it shall meet the sun in his coming ! let the earliest light of the morning gild it, and parting day linger and play on its summit.’ ”

Several monuments are erected in memory of the patriots who fell in the fields of battle during the siege of Boston. We make a record of them, as given by Mr. Frothingham in his valuable work.

## BUNKER HILL MONUMENT.

Monument square is four hundred and seventeen feet from north to south, and four hundred feet from east to west, and contains about four acres. It embraces the whole site of the redoubt, and a part of the site of the breastwork. The monument stands where the south-west angle of the redoubt was, and the whole of the redoubt was between the monument and the street that bounds it on the west. The small mound in the north-east corner of the square is supposed to be the remains of the breastwork. Warren fell about two hundred feet west of the monument. An iron fence encloses the square, and another surrounds the monument. The square has entrances on each of its sides and at each of its corners, and is surrounded by a walk and rows of trees.

The obelisk is thirty feet in diameter at the base, about fifteen feet at the top of the truncated part, and designed two hundred and twenty feet high ; but the mortar and the seams between the stones make the precise height two hundred and twenty-one feet. Within the shaft is a hollow cone, with a circular stairway winding round it to the summit, which enters a circular chamber at the top. There are ninety courses in the shaft—six of them below the ground, and the remainder above ground. The apex, or cap-stone, is a single stone, four feet square

at the base, and three feet six inches in height, weighing two and a half tons.

The foundation consists of six courses of stone, of two feet rise. It is sunk twelve feet below the ground, and rises upon a bed of clay and gravel.

The obelisk contains four faces of dressed stone, besides the steps; the outer wall is six feet thick at the bottom and two feet thick at the top. Directly in front of the entrance door of the monument, on a base of granite, is a model of the original monument erected December 2d, 1794, which stood a few rods west of the present monument, and on the spot where Warren fell. The last stone was raised July 23, 1842, in the presence of the Government of the Association. The completion of the monument was celebrated in 1843. Mr. Edward Carnes, Jr., of Charlestown, accompanied the stone in its ascent, waving the American flag. The cost of the obelisk was about \$120,000; the cost of fencing and grading about \$19,000; and contingent expenses about \$17,000.

**MONUMENT AT LEXINGTON.**—Legislature granted four hundred dollars to build a monument in this town. In 1779, it was erected by the town, under "the patronage and at the expense of the Commonwealth," to the memory of the eight men who fell at the fire of the British troops. It is of granite, twenty feet high, stands near the place where they were killed, and bears an inscription written by Rev. Jonas Clark.

**MONUMENT AT CONCORD.**—This monument was erected near the place where the two soldiers, who were killed on the bridge, were buried. In 1824, the Bunker Hill Monument Association appropriated five hundred dollars to build one in this town; and, at its suggestion, the corner-stone was laid in 1825. Sixty of the survivors joined in the celebration. Edward Everett delivered the address. One thousand dollars were afterwards pledged by this association for the completion of this monument.

**MONUMENT AT DANVERS.**—On Monday, April 20th, 1835, the corner-stone of this monument was laid, to the memory of seven young men who fell on that day in battle. General G. Foster, one of the survivors, made the address at the site of this monument, in which he stated that over a hundred of his townsmen went with him to the field this day. A procession proceeded to the church, where an address was delivered by Hon. D. P. King.

**MONUMENT AT WEST CAMBRIDGE.**—This monument was erected June 24th, 1848, over the remains of twelve of the patriots slain on that day. The names of only three of whom, belonging to what is now West Cambridge, are known, viz., Jason Russell, Jason Winship, and Jabez Wyman. The twelve were buried in a common grave. Their remains were disinterred and placed in a stone vault, now under the monument, April 22d, 1848. This is a plain granite obelisk, nineteen feet high, en-

closed by a neat iron fence. It was done by the voluntary contributions of the citizens.

MONUMENT AT ACTON.—The granite monument is erected at Acton, to commemorate the services and death of Captain Isaac Davis, Abner Hosmer, and James Hayward, of Acton, who fell at "Concord Fight." Captain Davis was commander of the Acton "minute men," and Hosmer and Hayward were members of his company, which began the attack on the British at Concord bridge, April 19th, 1775.

The monument is of granite, seventy-five feet high, seventy-five feet square at the base, and four feet at the top, and stands in the centre of Acton Green.

The remains of Captain Davis and his two brave men were exhumed from the village burying ground, placed in a coffin, escorted by a large military and civic procession to the monument, and there deposited in an aperture prepared for them. The dedication of this monument was an occasion of great interest. There were present at the table two revolutionary soldiers, who were engaged in the "Concord Fight"—Dr. Amariah Preston, of Lexington, ninety-four years of age, and Benjamin Smith, of Wayland, aged eighty-five. There were also exhibited several relics of the fight; the shoe buckles worn by Captain Davis in the fight, stained with blood; the powder horn and strap worn by



Hosmer in the battle, and the powder horn through which Hayward was shot.

**MONUMENT TO BUCKMINSTER.**—William Buckminster was lieutenant-colonel of Brewer's regiment at the Bunker Hill battle. He acquired much reputation for his courage and prudence. Just before the retreat he was dangerously wounded by a musket ball, which crippled him for life. He was born in Framingham, in 1736; he removed to Barre, was chosen, in 1774, to command the minute men. He died in 1786. The inscription on his monument is said to faithfully describe his character:—

“Sacred to the memory of Colonel William Buckminster. An industrious farmer, a useful citizen, an honest man, a sincere Christian, a brave officer, and a friend to his country; in whose cause he courageously fought, and was dangerously wounded at the battle of Bunker Hill. Born December 15th, A. D. 1736. Died June 22d, A. D. 1786.

#### WASHINGTON'S HEAD QUARTERS.

In July, 1775, the residence of Colonel John Vassal became the head-quarters of Washington. It is situated a short distance from Brattle street, leading by Mount Auburn to Watertown, surrounded with shrubbery and stately elms. Here, and at Winter Hill, the General passed most of his time, after taking command of the army, until the evacuation

of Boston. This spacious edifice "stands upon the upper of two terraces, which are ascended each by five stone steps. At each front corner of the house is a lofty elm, mere saplings when Washington first saw them, but now stately and patriarchal in appearance. Other elms, with flowers and shrubbery beautify the grounds around it; while within inconspicuous innovations has not been allowed to enter with its mallet and trowel, to mar the work of the ancient builder, and to cover with the stucco of modern art the carved cornices and paneled wainscots that first enriched it." It is now occupied by Professor Longfellow.

**RIEDESEL HOUSE.**—A few rods above the residence of Prof. Longfellow, is the house in which the Brunswick General, the Baron Riedesel and his family, were quartered during the stay of the captive army in this vicinity. It is said by the Baroness to be "one of the best houses in this place, which belonged to the royalists. It is described by Mr. Longfellow thus—"In style it is very much like that of Washington's head-quarters, and the general appearance of the grounds around is similar. It is shaded by noble linden trees, presenting to the eye all the attractions noticed by the Baroness of Riedesel in her charming letters. Upon a window pane on the north side of the house, may be seen the undoubted autography of that accomplished woman, inscribed with a diamond point. It is an interesting memento, and is preserved with great care," by the present owner.

## WASHINGTON ELM.

The associations which gather around this noble elm, that now stands a living memorial of past events, in the city of Cambridge, is well worthy of a record in the annals of our history. Its branches have spread abroad and far, since Washington, under its shade, first drew his sword as the commander-in-chief, on the 3rd of July, 1775. Hereafter, pilgrims from all parts of the world will come and linger reverentially at this shrine, in homage to the spirit of freedom.

The elm stands like a faithful watchman on Garden street, near the westerly corner of the common. If it could speak, it would be an interesting chronicler of events in the history of the past. Near this tree, the early settlers held their public town meetings, and in its vicinity the Indian council fires were lighted, more than two hundred years ago; and in its shade stood the eloquent Whitefield, discoursing to the multitude in lessons of piety and truth. Soldiers of the revolution sleep near it, who endured the privations of our national poverty and suffering. It looks towards Old Harvard and Massachusetts Hall, where the weary soldiers suspended their hammocks in its beams. Venerable tree! It bears an illustrious name, and waves its branches in the air to remind us of the temporary resting-place of the continental army.

Sometime ago, a fine intelligent boy used to

visit this tree after a heavy wind to pick up the scattered leaves, in order to press them and send them as a valuable gift to his distant friends, and every bit of broken bough from it was sacredly preserved by him. Another little boy, a lovely child of four summers, would walk a long weary distance to see this tree, to throw his arms around its trunk, and to stand under its shade. His little heart swelled high, with noble emotions, as he exclaimed, "this is the good, the brave Washington's tree."

A young lady of foreign descent, a stranger in Cambridge, took great pains to gather some of the leaves from this tree, to carry home as precious mementos. Every Fourth of July, while her father lived, she had been accustomed to read to him the Declaration of Independence, so great was his admiration of that noble document. Veneration for the character of Washington was early planted in her heart, and took deep root there. Honor to the Washington Elm.\*

\* Cambridge Chronicle.

## ANECDOTES OF WASHINGTON.

EXAMPLE OF TOTAL ABSTINENCE.—Towards the close of the revolutionary war, says Dr. Cox, an officer in the army had occasion to transact some business with General Washington, and repaired to Philadelphia for that purpose. Before leaving, he received an invitation to dine with the General, which was accepted, and upon entering the room he found himself in the company of a large number of ladies and gentlemen. As they were mostly strangers to him, and he was of a naturally modest and unassuming disposition, he took a seat near the foot of the table, and refrained from taking an active part in the conversation. Just before the dinner was concluded, General Washington called him by name and requested him to drink a glass of wine with him.

“You will have the goodness to excuse me, General,” was the reply, “as I have made it a rule not to take wine.”

All eyes were instantly turned upon the young officer, and a murmur of surprise and horror ran around the room. That a person should be so unsocial and so *mean* as to never drink wine, was really too bad; but that he should abstain from it on an occasion like that, and even when offered to him by Wash-

ington himself, was perfectly intolerable ! Washington saw at once the feelings of his guests, and promptly addressed them :—"Gentlemen," said he, "Mr. —— is right. I do not wish any of my guests to partake of any thing against their inclination, and I certainly do not wish them to violate any established *principle* in their social intercourse with me. I honor Mr. —— for his frankness, for his consistency in thus adhering to an established rule which can never do him harm, and for the adoption of which, I have no doubt, he has good and sufficient reasons."

WASHINGTON'S DEBTOR.—One Reuben Rouzy, of Virginia, owed the General about one thousand pounds. While President of the United States, one of his agents brought an action for the money ; judgment was obtained, and execution issued against the body of the defendant, who was taken to jail.—He had a considerable landed estate, but this kind of property cannot be sold in Virginia for debts, unless at the discretion of the person. He had a large family, and for the sake of his children preferred lying in jail to selling his land. A friend hinted to him that probably General Washington did not know any thing of the proceeding, and that it might be well to send him a petition, with a statement of the circumstances. He did so, and the very next post from Philadelphia, after the arrival of his petition in that city, brought him an order for his immediate release, together with a full dis-

charge, and a severe reprimand to the agent, for having acted in such a manner. Poor Rouzy was, in consequence, restored to his family, who never laid down their heads at night, without presenting prayers to Heaven for their "beloved Washington." Providence smiled upon the labors of the grateful family, and in a few years Rouzy enjoyed the exquisite pleasure of being able to lay the one thousand pounds, with the interest, at the feet of this truly great man. Washington reminded him that the debt was discharged; Rouzy replied, the debt of his family to the father of their country, and preserver of their parent, could never be discharged; and the General, to avoid the pressing importunity of the grateful Virginian, who would not be denied, accepted the money, only, however, to divide it among Rouzy's children, which he immediately did.

WASHINGTON AND HIS FRIENDS.—An anecdote is told of the great Washington, which exhibits, in a fine light, the distinction between public duty and private friendship. During his administration as President of the United States, a gentleman, the friend and the companion of the General, throughout the whole course of the revolutionary war, applied for a lucrative and very responsible office.—The gentleman was at all times welcome to Washington's table; he had been to a certain degree, necessary to the domestic repose of a man, who had for seven years fought the battles of his country, and who had now undertaken the task of wielding

her political energies. At all times, and in all places, Washington regarded his revolutionary associate with an eye of evident partiality and kindness. He was a jovial, pleasant, and unobtrusive companion. In applying for this office, it was accordingly in the full confidence of success; and his friends already cheered him on the prospect of his arrival at competency and ease. The opponent of this gentleman, was known to be decidedly hostile to the politics of Washington; he had even made himself conspicuous among the ranks of opposition. He had, however, the temerity to stand as candidate for the office to which the friend and the favorite of Washington aspired. He had nothing to urge in favor of his pretensions, but strong integrity, promptitude, and fidelity in business, and every quality which, if called into exercise, would render service to the state. Every one considered the application of this man hopeless; no glittering testimonial of merit had he to present to the eye of Washington; he was known to be his political enemy; he was opposed by a favorite of the General's; and yet, with such fearful odds, he dared to stand candidate. What was the result? The enemy of Washington was appointed to the office, and his table companion was left destitute and dejected.—A mutual friend, who interested himself in the affair, ventured to remonstrate with the President on the injustice of his appointment. "My friend," said he, "I receive with a cordial welcome; he is welcome to my house, and welcome to my



heart; but, with all his good qualities, he is not a man of business. His opponent is, with all his political hostility to me, a man of business; my private feelings have nothing to do in this case. I am not George Washington, but President of the United States; as George Washington, I would do this man any kindness in my power; but as President of the United States, I can do nothing."

ESCAPE OF GENERAL WASHINGTON.—Major Ferguson, who commanded a rifle corps in advance of the hussars under Kniphausen, during some skirmishing a day or two previous to the battle of Brandywine, was the hero of a very singular incident, which he thus relates in a letter to a friend. It illustrates, in a most forcible manner, the overruling hand of Providence in directing the operations of a man's mind, in moments when he is least of all aware of it.

"We had not lain long, when a rebel officer, remarkable by a hussar dress, pressed towards our army, within a hundred yards of my right flank, not perceiving us. He was followed by another, dressed in dark green and blue, mounted on a bay horse, with a remarkably high cocked hat. I ordered three good shots to steal near to them, and fire at them; but the idea disgusting me, I recalled the order. The hussar, in returning, made a circuit, but the other passed within a hundred yards of us, upon which I advanced from the wood towards him. Upon my calling, he stopped; but after look-

ing at me, he proceeded. I again drew his attention, and made signs to him to stop, leveling my piece at him; but he slowly cantered away. As I was within that distance at which, in the quickest firing, I could have lodged half a dozen balls in or about him, before he was out of my reach, I had only to determine; but it was not pleasant to fire at the back of an unoffending individual, who was acquitting himself very coolly of his duty; so I let him alone.

“The day after, I had been telling this story to some wounded officers, who lay in the same room with me, when one of the surgeons, who had been dressing the wounded rebel officers, came in and told us that they had been informing him that General Washington was all the morning with the light troops, and only attended by a French officer in a hussar dress, he himself dressed and mounted in every point as above described. I am not sorry that I did not know at the time who it was.”

WASHINGTON'S PUNCTUALITY.—When General Washington assigned to meet Congress at noon, he never failed to be passing the door of the hall, while the clock was striking twelve. Whether his guests were present or not, he always dined at four. Not unfrequently new members of Congress, who were invited to dine with him, delayed until dinner was half over, and he would then remark, “gentlemen, we are punctual here.” When he visited Boston, in 1788, he appointed eight, A. M., as the hour when he

should set out for Salem, and while the Old South church clock was striking eight, he was mounting his horse. The company of cavalry, which volunteered to escort him, were parading in Tremont street, after his departure, and it was not until the President reached Charles River Bridge, that they overtook him. On the arrival of the corps, the President with perfect good nature, said, "Major, I thought you had been too long in my family, not to know when it was eight o'clock." Capt. Pease, the father of the stage establishment in the United States, had a beautiful pair of horses, which he wished to dispose of to the President, whom he knew to be an excellent judge of horses. The President appointed five o'clock in the morning, to examine them. But the Captain did not arrive with the horses until a quarter after five, when he was told by the groom that the President was there at five, and was then fulfilling other engagements.—Pease, much mortified, was obliged to wait a week for another opportunity, merely for delaying the first *quarter of an hour*.

WASHINGTON'S EXAMPLE.—In one of the towns of Connecticut, when the roads were extremely bad, Washington, the President of the United States, was overtaken one Saturday night, not being able to reach the village where he designed to rest on the Sabbath. Next morning, about sunrise, his coach was harnessed, and he was proceeding forwards to an inn, near the place of worship which

he proposed to attend. A plain man, who was an informing officer, came from a cottage, and inquired of the coachman, whether there was any urgent reason for his traveling on the Lord's day. The General, instead of resenting this as impertinent rudeness, ordered the driver to stop, and with great civility explained the circumstances to the officer, commending him for his fidelity, and assuring him that nothing was farther from his intention than to treat with disrespect the laws and usages of Connecticut, relative to the Sabbath, which met his most cordial approbation. How many admirers of Washington might receive instruction and reproof from his example!

WASHINGTON'S CONFESSION.—Perhaps few facts would more forcibly illustrate the views, which even reflecting military men take of the nature of war, than the following:—

Thomas Mullet, Esq., an English gentleman, being in America, called on General Washington, at his residence at Mount Vernon, soon after the close of the contest between this country and Great Britain. Washington asked him, in the course of conversation in his library, if he had met with an individual in that country, who could write the history of the recent contest. Mr. M. replied that he knew of one, and only one, competent to the task. The General eagerly asked, "Who, sir, can he be?" Mr. M. replied, "Sir, Cæsar wrote his own Commentaries." The General bowed, and replied,

“Cæsar could write his Commentaries ; but, sir, I know the atrocities committed on both sides have been so great and many, that they cannot be faithfully recorded, and had better be buried in oblivion !”

BRADDOCK AND WASHINGTON.—It was the lot of Washington to be close to the brave but imprudent Braddock when he fell ; and he assisted to place him in a tumbril, or little cart. As he was laid down, pale and near spent with loss of blood, he faintly said to Washington—

“Well, Colonel, what’s to be done now ?”

“Retreat, sir,” replied Washington ; “retreat by all means ; for the regulars won’t fight, and the rangers are nearly all killed.”

“Poor fellows !” he replied, “poor fellows !—Well, do as you will, Colonel, do as you will.”

The army then commenced its retreat, in a very rapid and disorderly manner, while Washington, with his few surviving rangers, covered the rear.

Happily, the Indians did not pursue them far ; but, after firing a few random shots, returned in a body, to fall upon the plunder ; while Washington, with his frightened fugitives, continued their retreat, sadly remembering that more than one half of their morning’s gay companions were left a prey to the ravening beasts of the desert. There, denied the common charities of the grave, they lay for many a year, bleaching the lonely hills with their bones.

On reaching Fort Cumberland, where they met

Colonel Dunbar with the rear of the army, General Braddock died. He died in the arms of Washington, whose pardon he often begged for having treated him so rudely that fatal morning—heartily wished, he said, he had but followed his advice—frequently called his rangers “brave fellows! glorious fellows!” Often said he should be glad to live if it was only to reward their gallantry. “I have more than once been told,” says Mr. Weems, “but cannot vouch for the truth of it, that his sister, on hearing how obstinately Washington and his Blues had fought for her brother, was so affected, that she shed tears; and sent them from England handsome cockades, according to their number, and a pair of colors elegantly wrought by her own fair hands.”

MRS. WASHINGTON’S DREAM.—An old lady of Fredericksburg used often to relate a dream of Mrs. Washington’s, and, a few weeks before her death, related it to Mr. Weems:—

“I dreamt,” said the mother of Washington, “that I was sitting in the piazza of a large new house, into which we had but lately moved. George, at that time about five years old, was in the garden with his corn-stalk plough, busily running little furrows in the sand, in imitation of Negro Dick, a fine black boy, with whose ploughing George was so delighted that it was sometimes difficult to get him to his dinner. And so, as I was sitting in the piazza at my work, I suddenly heard in my dream

a kind of roaring noise on the eastern side of the house. On running out to see what was the matter, I beheld a dreadful sheet of fire bursting from the roof. The sight struck me with a horror which took away my strength, and threw me, almost senseless, to the ground. My husband and the servants, as I saw in my dream, soon came up; but, like myself, were so terrified at the sight that they could make no attempt to extinguish the flames. In this most distressing state, the image of my little son came, I thought, to my mind more dear and tender than ever; and turning towards the garden where he was engaged with his little corn-stalk plough, I screamed out twice with all my might, 'George!' 'George!' In a moment, as I thought, he threw down his mimic plough, and ran to me, saying:— 'High! ma! what makes you call so angry? aint I a good boy? don't I always run to you soon as I hear you call?' I could make no reply, but just threw up my arms towards the flame. He looked up and saw the house all on fire; but, instead of bursting out a crying, as might have been expected from a child, he instantly brightened up and seemed ready to fly to extinguish it. But first looking at me with great tenderness, he said: 'O ma! don't be afraid: God Almighty will help us, and we shall soon put it out.' His looks and words revived our spirits in so wonderful a manner, that we all instantly set about to assist him. A ladder was presently brought, on which, as I saw in my dream, he ran up with the nimbleness of a squirrel; and the

servants supplied him with water, which he threw on the fire from an American gourd. But that growing weaker, the flame appeared to gain ground, breaking forth and roaring most dreadfully, which so frightened the servants, that many of them, like persons in despair, began to leave him. But he, still undaunted, continued to ply it with water, animating the servants at the same time, both by his word and actions. For a long time the contest appeared very doubtful; but at length a venerable old man, with a tall cap and an iron rod in his hand, like a lightning rod, reached out to him a curious little trough, like a wooden shoe. On receiving this he redoubled his exertions, and soon extinguished the fire. Our joy on the occasion was unbounded. But he, on the contrary, showing no more of transport now than of terror before, looked rather sad at sight of the great harm that had been done. Then I saw in my dream that, after some time spent as in deep thought, he called out with much joy, ‘Well, ma! now if you and the family will but consent, we can make a far better roof than this ever was—a roof of such a quality, that, if well kept together, it will last for ever; but if you take it apart, you will make the house ten thousand times worse than it was before.’”

“This, though certainly a very curious dream, needs no Daniel to interpret it, especially if we take Mrs. Washington’s new house for the young colony government—the fire on its east side for North’s civil war—the gourd which Washington first em-



ployed for the American three and six months' enlistments—the old man with his cap and iron rod for Doctor Franklin—the shoe-like vessel which he reached to Washington for the Sabot, or wooden-shoed nation, the French, whom Franklin courted a long time for America—and the new roof proposed by Washington for a staunch honest republic—that “equal government,” which, by guarding alike the welfare of all, ought by all to be so heartily beloved as to endure for ever.”\*

HESSIANS AND THE FARMERS.—‘To remove from the minds of the Hessians their ill-grounded dread of the Americans, Washington took great care, from the moment they fell into his hands, to have them treated with the utmost tenderness and generosity. He contrived that the wealthy Dutch farmers should come in from the country and converse with them. They seemed very agreeably surprised at such friendly attentions. The Dutchmen at length proposed to them to quit the British service, and become farmers. At this the Hessians paused a little, and said something about parting with their country.

“Your country!” said the farmers. “Poor fellows! Where is your country? You have no country. To support his pomps and pleasures your prince has torn you from your country, and for thirty pounds a head sold you like slaves to fight

\* Weems' Life of Washington.

against us, who never troubled you. Then leave the vile employment, and come live with us. Our lands are rich. Come help us to cultivate them. Our tables are covered with fat meats, and with milk and honey. Come sit down and eat with us like brothers. Our daughters are young and beautiful and good. Then show yourselves worthy, and you shall have our daughters; and we will give you of our lands and cattle, that you may work, and become rich and happy as we are. You were told that General Washington and the Americans were savages, and would devour you. But, from the moment you threw down your arms, have they not been as kind to you as you had any right to expect?"

"O yes!" cried they; "and a thousand times more kind than we deserved. We were told the Americans would show us no pity, and so we were cruel to them. But we are sorry for it now, since they have been so good to us; and now we love the Americans, and will never fight against them any more."

Such was the effect of Washington's policy.

THE LAWYERS AND SADDLE-BAGS.—It is said of Washington, that he would participate with perfect freedom, in any innocent amusements that were going on around him. When reading a book or a newspaper, if he met with an amusing or remarkable fact, he would read it aloud, for the entertainment of the company present. He would often re-

late the following anecdote: "On one occasion, during a visit to Mount Vernon, while President of the United States, he had invited the company of two distinguished lawyers, each of whom afterwards attained to the highest judicial situations in this country. They came on horseback, and for convenience, or some other purpose, had bestowed their wardrobe in the same pair of saddle-bags, each one occupying his side. On their arrival, wet to the skin by a shower of rain, they were shown into a chamber to change their garments.—One unlocked his side of the bag, and the first thing he drew forth was a black bottle of whiskey. He insisted that this was his companion's depository, but on unlocking the other, there was found a huge twist of tobacco, a few pieces of corn bread, and the complete equipment of a wagoner's pack-saddle. They had exchanged saddle-bags with some traveler on the way, and finally made their appearance in borrowed clothes."

**A BEAUTIFUL DESIGN.**—While Washington lived in retirement, at Mount Vernon, a Mrs. Van Benschel, an intimate friend of the family, presented Mrs. Washington on her illustrious husband's birthday, with an elegant fancy piece, designed and executed by herself. The bust of the hero was well painted, and the likeness tolerably well preserved. Near it were three sisters, one of whom appeared to be occupied in spinning the thread of life—the second in winding it—and the third was with-

held by the strong arm of the Genius of Immortality from applying to it the fatal shears, and bearing it off into eternity. It was a beautiful and appropriate tribute on the President's birth-day. The following lines were inscribed beneath the picture :

“ In vain the sisters ply with busy care,  
To reel off years from Glory's deathless heir,  
Frail things may pass, his fame shall never die,  
Rescued from FATE by IMMORTALITY.”

WASHINGTON AND THE YOUNG PEOPLE.—On one occasion a large company of young persons assembled at Colonel Blackburn's residence to welcome the arrival of Washington. While there, he was unusually cheerful and animated, but he perceived that when he made his appearance, the young people seemed restrained in their amusements, and stood in the corner of the rooms, in solemn silence, and in reverence for the great man.—He endeavored to remove this restraint, by joining with them in their plays, and by pleasant conversation. But perceiving the spell remained on the young circle, he retired among the older people in the adjoining room, appearing unhappy at the restraint his presence had put upon them. The young people soon resumed their animated dance, when Washington, rising cautiously from his seat, walked on tiptoe to the door, which was partly open, and contemplated the scene for a quarter of an hour, unobserved by any of the young people.

WASHINGTON'S SELF-COMMAND.—Judge Breckenridge, the author of "Modern Chivalry," relates the following anecdote of Washington: "The Judge was a great humorist, and on one occasion he met with Washington at a public house, where a large company had gathered, for the purpose of discussing the question of improving the navigation of the Potomac. They took supper at the same table, and the judge labored with all his powers of humor, to divert the General, but in vain. He seemed aware of his purpose, and listened without a smile. The rooms in which they lodged over night were separated only by a thin partition of pine boards. The General had retired first, and when the Judge had entered his own room, he overheard Washington laughing heartily to himself, at the recollection of the stories which he, the Judge, had related at the supper table."

WASHINGTON AND THE CORPORAL.—Some time in the year 1776, it became necessary for the protection of Long Island, which the British were desirous of possessing, as it abounded with fresh provisions, to construct works of defence, extending from Wallabout Bay to Red Hook. In prosecuting this work, as is usually the case, small parties worked at different places on the line, under the superintendence of a subaltern officer. It so happened that one of these parties had to place a heavy piece of timber, which, with their united efforts, they were unable to manage; they, however, were strug-

gling to accomplish the task, whilst the officer contented himself with standing by, directing and encouraging them when they would make an effort, by shouting, "Hurra boys, *no-w*, right *u-p*, *he-a-ve*," etc., without laying hold, as he should have done, and helping them with their difficult task. Fortunately for them at this time, a horseman rode up. Approaching the officer, he asked why he did not lend a helping hand, seeing his men stood in so great a need of help? The gentleman officer seemed utterly astonished and indignant, at the presumption of the insolent stranger, and answered, "What, sir! I lend a helping hand! Why! I'll have you to know, sir, that I'm a *Corporal*!" The horseman alighted, took hold with the men, and in a little time, by his help, the timber was placed as required. Then turning to the Corporal, he said, "Mr. Corporal, my name is George Washington. I have come over from New York, to inspect the works here; so soon as you have done this piece of work, you will meet me at your commander's—General Sullivan's quarters."

WASHINGTON AND MORRIS.—*Robert and the Quaker*.—When Congress fled to Baltimore, as the British advanced across New Jersey, Mr. Morris, after removing his family into the country, returned to Philadelphia, and remained there. Washington wrote him, saying, that, "to make any successful movement, a large sum of money was needed,"—a requirement which, at that time, seemed almost

impossible to meet. Mr. Morris left his counting-room for his lodgings, in utter despondency. On his way he met a wealthy Quaker, and made known his wants. "What security canst thou give?" asked the Quaker. "My note and my honor," said Morris. "Robert, thou shalt have it," replied the Quaker. It was sent to Washington, the Delaware was crossed, and the victory won.

AN EMERGENT CASE.—At the time Washington was devising an attack upon Sir Henry Clinton, while in his camp on the Hudson, in 1781, Mr. Morris and Judge Peters, of Pennsylvania, were then at head-quarters. Washington received a letter from Count de Grasse, announcing his determination not to sail for New York. He was bitterly disappointed; but, before the cloud had passed from his brow, he conceived the expedition against Cornwallis at Yorktown. "What can you do for me?" said Washington to Peters. "With money every thing, without it nothing," he replied, at the same time turning with an anxious look toward Morris. "Let me know the sum you desire," said Mr. Morris; and before noon Washington's plans and estimates were complete. Mr. Morris promised the amount, and he raised it on his own responsibility.

TOO FAMILIAR.—At a social party to which Washington was invited, his remarkable traits were the subject of earnest description among the company; and it was insisted that no one, however in-

timate, would dare to take a liberty with him. In a foolish moment of elation, Gouvenor Morris accepted a bet that he would venture upon the experiment. Accordingly, just before dinner was announced, as the guests stood in a group by the fire, he introduced a somewhat lively chat, and, in the midst of it, apparently from a casual impulse, clapped Washington familiarly on the shoulder. The latter turned and gave him a look of such mild and dignified, yet grieved surprise, that even the self-possession of his friend deserted him. He shrunk from that gaze of astonishment, at his forgetfulness of respect. The mirth of the company was instantly awed into silence.

BLIND IN THE SERVICE.—When the American troops were quartered at Newburg, at the close of the revolutionary war, and the soldiers were stirred up to rebellion against the government by the famous anonymous letters, which, it has since been ascertained, were written by General Armstrong, then a major in the army, General Washington convened the officers for the purpose of addressing them on this subject, and calming the tumult which was beginning to rage in their bosoms. He held a paper in his hand, on which the remarks he intended to make were written; and then it was that, finding himself unable to read without assistance, as he was drawing his spectacles from his pocket, that unpremeditated expression broke from him—one of the most pathetic that ever fell from human



lips—"Fellow citizens," said he, "*you see I have not only grown grey, but blind in your service.*" The effect of this remark was electrical. No bosom, no eye was proof against it.

PUBLIC SPIRIT.—The interest Washington took in the welfare of his own family, in enriching and adorning his own lands, extended also to the nation. He well knew that the people who were reaping the plentiful harvest from their own industry, could not well convey their produce to market without more convenient channels and better roads. He therefore proposed the importance of forming canals and making cuts between the beautiful rivers running through the United States. And, taking the responsibility himself to ascertain the advantages of such an enterprise, he ascended the sources of the great rivers, measured the distance between them, discovered obstacles in the way of navigation, and counted the cost of removing them. Congress seeing the advantage of the enterprise, extended the navigation of James River, the noblest stream in Virginia. Struck with the plan suggested by Washington, and grateful for the labors and expense he had made in rendering it feasible, they urged him to accept one hundred and fifty shares of the company's stock, amounting to near \$40,000. But he refused it, saying, "What will the world think, if they should know that I have taken this sum for this affair? Will they not be apt to suspect, on my next proposition, that money is my

motive ? Thus, for the sake of money, which, indeed, I never coveted from my country, I may lose the power of doing to her some service, which may be worth more than all the money."

WASHINGTON'S HOSPITALITY.—In a letter to his overseer, written in 1775, he gives the following directions, which illustrates his systematic benevolence to the poor :—

"Let the hospitality of the house, with respect to the poor, be kept up. Let no one go away hungry. If any of this kind of people should be in want of corn, supply their necessities, provided it does not encourage them in idleness ; and I have no objections to your giving my money in charity, to the amount of forty or fifty pounds a year, when you think it well bestowed. You are to consider that neither myself nor wife are in the way to do these good offices. In all other respects I recommend it to you, and have no doubt of your observing the greatest economy and frugality ; as I suppose you know that I do not get a farthing for my services here, more than my expenses. It becomes necessary, therefore, for me to be saving at home."

"The overseer," says Paulding, "was ordered to fill a large crib with corn every season, for the use of his poor neighbors ; and when, on one occasion, much distress prevailed in the country around, on account of the failure of the harvest, he purchased several hundred bushels of corn at a high price,

to be given away to those most in want, and most deserving relief.

A FRIEND TO THE POOR.—Washington exercised much judgment in giving and distributing his charities among the poor. Mount Vernon was no place for *worthless* beggars. When such persons called for charity, he took occasion to give them a moral lesson, to remind them of the great crime of robbing the public of their services, and of begging what was actually due to the real poor. If the character of the beggar was good, if the applicant were a sober, and industrious person, who had been visited by misfortune—such persons were never turned away empty. Large quantities of wool, corn, wood, bacon, and clothes, were distributed among the poor, from his inexhaustible store-house. He was a good and wise steward.

Mr. Peake, a good manager of one of Washington's plantations, says, "I had orders to fill a corn-house every year, for the sole use of the poor in my neighborhood; to whom it was a most seasonable and precious relief; saving numbers of poor women and children from miserable famine."

Lund Washington, a manager of his Mount Vernon estate, had similar orders. One time, when corn was very dear, (a dollar per bushel,) that many of the poor were near starving, he was ordered by the General, to give away all that could be spared, and to purchase several hundred bushels for them besides.

He also founded a charity school in Alexandria. It is well known that Washington received only the precise amount of the expenditures which were incurred in the discharge of his public duties, for the term of eight years. He refused the offer of one hundred and fifty shares of the public works, authorized by his native State. As he had no children, he manifested a parental kindness, and a father's hospitality, to his relatives and dependants.

LAFAYETTE'S SON.—In 1795, the son of Marquis de Lafayette, made his escape from France, and came to Boston. Washington hearing of his arrival, sent his respects to the young man, stating that for certain reasons he could not publicly notice him, yet begged him to consider himself as his friend, father and protector. Washington arranged for him to enter Harvard University, and gave him permission to draw on him for whatever money was necessary to defray his expenses. Congress, on hearing the youth was in America, made inquiry into his condition, and proposed aiding him out of the National treasury; but on hearing of the generous offer which Washington had made for him, they saw that their proposal was unnecessary.

THE EFFECT OF SMILES.—After his work was over for the day, it is said that Washington took much pleasure in the company of his family, and with his friends. He possessed a very cheerful, kind and indulgent spirit; and those who were ac-

customed to his smiles, say, "that there was something in them peculiarly touching. They were more apt to draw tears of gratitude than to awaken gayety." One of his kinsman, who when a child, spent much time at Mount Vernon, says, "that when the General patted him on the head, and gave him one of his affectionate smiles, he always felt the tears swelling under his eyelids."

THE OLD CHARGER.—Did Washington sell his faithful old horse? This question arises from a statement made in an edition of "Plutarch's Lives," in a note appended to the biography of Cato, the censor, as follows: "*Yet Washington, the Tertius Cato of these later times, is said to have sold his old charger.*" This statement was made on hearsay. Colonel Lear, who resided at Mount Vernon, and was private secretary of Washington, at the time of his death, he informed Mr. Paulding, that the report was without any foundation. The circumstances are these: The horse which Washington was accustomed to ride about his plantation, after his retirement from public life, was sold, not by himself, but by one of his heirs. His old war horse was put under the special care of an aged servant, who was with him in the campaigns. He was never rode after the conclusion of the war, and died long before his master.

WASHINGTON AND PAYNE.—Mr. Payne relates the following anecdote of Washington, which oc-

curred in the Fairfax court, when Payne was having a case tried. The lawyer on the other side of the question in court, perceiving that he was in danger of losing his case, resorted to a course of reasoning by which he hoped to raise the prejudices of the court against Mr. Payne. Washington was present. "Please your worships," said the lawyer, "as proof that this Payne is a most turbulent fellow, and capable of all I tell you, be pleased to remember that this is the very man, who some time ago treated our beloved Colonel Washington so barbarously; who dared in this very court-house yard, to lift his impious hand against that greatest and best of men, and knocked him down as though he had been a bullock of the stalls."

This brought from the spectators a tremendous stamping on the floor, and caused Payne to look rather sad. Washington immediately arose and addressed the court thus—

"As to Mr. Payne's character, we all have the satisfaction to know that it is unexceptionable, and with respect to the little difference which formerly happened between him and myself, it was instantly made up; and we have lived on the best terms ever since; moreover, I wish all my acquaintances to know, that I entirely acquit Mr. Payne of blame in that affair, and take it all on myself, as the aggressor."

Payne relates another anecdote of Washington, which shows the goodness of his heart—

"Immediately after the war," said he, "when

the conquering hero was returning in peace to his home, with the laurels of victory green and flourishing on his head, I felt a great desire to see him, and so I set out for Mount Vernon. As I drew near the house, I began to experience a rising fear, lest he should call to mind the blow I had given him in former days. However, animating myself, I pushed on; Washington met me at the door, with a smiling welcome, and presently led me into an adjoining room, where Mrs. Washington sat. 'Here, my dear,' said he, presenting me to his lady, 'here is the little man you have so often heard me talk of; and who, on a difference between us one day, had the resolution to knock me down, big as I am. I know you will honor him, as he deserves, for I assure you he has the heart of a true Virginian.' He said this, continued Mr. Payne, with an air which convinced me that his long familiarity with war had not robbed him of a single spark of the goodness and nobleness of heart, by which he was so eminently distinguished."

**THE MEETING-HOUSE QUESTION.**—As a proprietor of land, Washington had to take part in many kinds of local business. His capacity, judgment and experience, gave him extensive influence among his neighbors. As a vestry man of Truro Parish, in which he resided, parochial affairs occupied much of his attention. The clergyman of the parish relates of him the following story: "The church being old and ruinous, it was resolved to

build a new one, and several meetings of the parishioners were held to determine on the site. The question at length divided the parish into two parties, one insisting that the church should be built on the site of the old one, the other insisting on its being built in a more central situation. The conservatives appeared to have the majority; and when, at a final meeting, George Mason, a friend and neighbor of Washington, and an influential man in the colony, made an eloquent speech, about not deserting a spot hallowed by so many venerable associations, and in which the bones of their fathers were buried; such was the effect, that it seemed that the resolution to adhere to the old site would be carried without a dissenting voice. At this moment, Washington rose up, and taking from his pocket a plan of the parish, in which were marked the two disputed sites, and the position of all the houses of all the parishioners, spread it out before them, and bidding them forget Mr. Mason's speech, and attend to the differences of the distances they would have to travel, in going to church, as exhibited by the map. The result was, that the new site was agreed on.



## JUVENILE ANECDOTES.

PRACTICAL EDUCATION.—Some idea of Mr. Washington's plan of education may be collected from the following anecdote, related to Mr. Weems, twenty years ago, by an aged lady, who was a distant relative, and, when a girl, spent much of her time in the family :—

“On a fine morning,” said she, “in the fall of 1737, Mr. Washington having little George by the hand, came to the door and asked my cousin Washington and myself to walk with him to the orchard, promising he would show us a fine sight. On arriving at the orchard, we were presented with a fine sight indeed. The whole earth, as far as we could see, was strewed with fruit; and yet the trees were bending under the weight of apples, which hung in clusters like grapes, and vainly strove to hide their blushing cheeks behind the green leaves. ‘Now, George,’ said his father, ‘look here, my son; don’t you remember when this good cousin of yours brought you that fine large apple last Spring, how hardly I could prevail on you to divide with your brothers and sisters; though I promised you that if you would but do it, God would give you plenty of apples this fall.’ Poor George could not say a word; but, hanging down his head, looked quite confused, while with his little naked toes he scratched in the soft ground. ‘Now look up, my son,’ continued his father, ‘look up, George! and

see there how richly the blessed God has made good my promise to you. Wherever you turn your eyes, you see the trees loaded with fine fruit; many of them indeed breaking down; while the ground is covered with mellow apples, more than you could eat, my son, in all your life time.'

"George looked in silence on the wide wilderness of fruit. He marked the busy humming-bees, and heard the gay notes of birds; then lifting his eyes, filled with shining moisture, to his father, he softly said: 'Well, pa, only forgive me this time; and see if I ever be so stingy any more.'"

GEORGE AND HIS HATCHET.—When George was about six years old, he was made the wealthy master of a hatchet! of which, like most little boys, he was immoderately fond, and was constantly going about chopping every thing that came in his way. One day, in the garden, where he often amused himself hacking his mother's pea-sticks, he unluckily tried the edge of his hatchet on the body of a beautiful young English cherry-tree, which he barked so terribly, that I don't believe the tree ever got the better of it. The next morning the old gentleman, finding out what had befallen his tree, which, by the by, was a great favorite, came into the house, and, with much warmth, asked for the mischievous author, declaring at the same time that he would not have taken five guineas for his tree. Nobody could tell him any thing about it. Presently George and his hatchet made their appearance.

“George,” said his father, “do you know who killed that beautiful little cherry-tree yonder in the garden?” This was a tough question, and George staggered under it for a moment, but quickly recovered himself; and, looking at his father with the sweet face of youth brightened with the inexpressible charm of all-conquering truth, he bravely cried out: “I can’t tell a lie, pa; you know I can’t tell a lie. I did cut it with my hatchet.” “Run to my arms, you dearest boy!” cried his father in transports; “run to my arms; glad am I, George, that you killed my tree; for you have paid me for it a thousand-fold. Such an act of heroism in my son is of more worth than a thousand trees, though blossomed with silver, and their fruits of purest gold.”

INSTRUCTIVE EXPERIMENT.—One day Mr. Washington went into the garden, and prepared a little bed of finely pulverized earth, on which he wrote George’s name at full, in large letters, then strewing in plenty of cabbage seed, he covered them up, and smoothed all over nicely with the roller. This bed he purposely prepared close along side of a gooseberry walk, which, happening at this time to be well hung with ripe fruit, he knew would be honored with George’s visits pretty regularly every day. Not many mornings had passed away before in came George, with eyes wild rolling, and his little cheeks ready to burst with great news.

“O pa! come here! come here!”

"What's the matter, my son? what's the matter?"

"O come here, I tell you, pa; come here! and I'll show you such a sight as you never saw in all your life time."

The old gentleman, suspecting what George would be at, gave him his hand, which he seized with great eagerness, and tugging him along through the garden, led him point blank to the bed whereon was inscribed, in large letters, and in all the freshness of newly sprung plants, the full name of

### GEORGE WASHINGTON.

"There, pa?" said George, quite in an ecstasy of astonishment, "did you ever see such a sight in all your life time?"

"Why it seems like a curious affair, sure enough, George?"

"But, pa, who did make it there? who did make it there?"

"It grew there by chance, I suppose, my son."

"By chance, pa? O no! no! it never did grow there by chance, pa; indeed that it never did!"

"High! why not, my son?"

An interesting conversation went on between them about the existence of God, when young George asked,—

"But, pa, where is God? I did never see him yet."

"True, my son; but though you never saw him,

yet he is always with you. You did not see me when, ten days ago, I made this little plant bed, where you see your name in such beautiful green letters; but though you did not see me here, yet you know I was here."

"Yes, pa, that I do; I know you was here."

"Well, then, and as my son could not believe that chance had made and put together so exactly the letters of his name, (though only sixteen,) then how can he believe that chance could have made and put together all those millions and millions of things that are now so exactly fitted to his good?"

He would have gone on; but George, who had hung upon his father's words with looks and eyes of all-devouring attention, here broke out—

"O pa, that 's enough! that 's enough! It can't be chance, indeed—it can't be chance that made and gave me all these things."

"What was it then, do you think, my son?"

"Indeed, pa, I don't know unless it was God Almighty."

"Yes, George, he it was, my son, and nobody else."

"Well, but, pa," continued George, "does God Almighty give me every thing? Don't you give me some things, pa?"

"I give you something indeed! O how can I give you any thing, George? I who have nothing on earth that I can call my own, no, not even the breath I draw!"

"High, pa! is n't that great big house your house,

and this garden, and the horses yonder, and oxen, and sheep, and trees, and every thing—is n't all yours, pa?"

"O no, my son, no! why you make me shrink into nothing. George, when you talk of all these belonging to me, who can't even make a grain of sand! O, how could I, my son, have given life to those great oxen and horses, when I can't give life even to a fly?—no! for if the poorest fly were killed, it is not your father, George, nor all the men in the world, that could ever make him alive again."

At this George fell into a profound silence, while his pensive looks showed that his youthful soul was laboring with some idea never felt before. Perhaps it was at that moment that the good Spirit of God ingrafted on his heart that germ of piety which filled his after life with so many of the precious fruits of morality.

A JUVENILE PRODUCTION.—About the middle of January, Washington, after returning from his expedition to the Indians, returned to Williamsburg; and, instantly waiting on the governor, presented him with the fruits of his labors, the belts of wampum which he had brought from the Indian kings as pledges of their friendship, the French governor's letters, and, last of all, his journal of the expedition. This, it seems, he had drawn up as a tub for the whale, that he might be spared the pain of much talking about himself and his adventures. For, like

the king of Morven, "though mighty deeds rolled from his soul of fire, yet his words were never heard." The governor was much pleased with the Indian belts, more with the Frenchman's letter; but most of all with Washington's journal, which he proposed to have printed immediately. Washington begged that his excellency would spare him the mortification of seeing his journal sent out into the world in so mean a dress. He urged that, having been written in a wintry wilderness, by a traveler, young, illiterate, and often cold, wet, and weary, it needed a thousand amendments. "Hoot awa, Major," replied his excellency, "hoot awa, mon; what tauk ye aboot amendments. I am sure the pamphlet need nae blush to be seen by his majesty himsel—and in geud troth I mean to send him a copy or twa of it. And besides our Assembly will rise to-morrow or next day, and I wish each of the members to take a few copies hame with them. So we must e'en strait-way print the journal off hand as it is."

The journal, of course, was immediately printed. Every eye perused it, and every tongue was loud in its praise.

WASHINGTON'S MUSCULAR STRENGTH.—The mere play at marbles and tops, was not sufficient exercise for Washington when a boy. He preferred such exercise as would give strength and elasticity to his whole constitution. In jumping with a long pole, or for pitching heavy weights, he scarcely had an equal. At running, there was none to match

him. John Fitzhugh, Esq., who knew him well, says, "There was a young Langhorn Dade, of Westmoreland, who was a mighty swift runner.—In running with George, he did not like to give it up, and would often say that he brought George to a tie. I have seen them run together, he says, many a time, and George always beat him easy enough."

Colonel Lewis, his playmate and kinsman, says, "that he has often seen him throw a stone across the Rappahannock, at the lower ferry of Fredericksburg. It would be difficult to find a man who could do it now."

Washington's father was a man of strong muscular power. His gun, which is called Washington's fowling-piece, and now the property of Harry Fitzhugh, of Chotank, is of such enormous weight, that not one man in fifty can fire it without rest.—It is said that the General made nothing of holding it at arm's length, and shooting swans on the Potomac, to the number of seven or eight at a shot."

WASHINGTON AND THE STINSONS.—The seven sons of the Widow Stinson were young men of herculean size, and were equal to any seven sons of any one mother. Washington cultivated the acquaintance of this family, as the young men promised him an abundance of that manly exercise in which he delighted. "In front of the house lay a fine extended green, with a square of several hundred yards. When George had closed his daily toils in surveying, he and his young companions



would resort to this green, and like a young Greck, training for the Olympic games, "see," as they termed it "which was the best man," at running, jumping, and wrestling—so great was their ambition to excel each other, that they would often stay, especially on moonlight evenings, till bed-time.—The Crawfords and Stinsons, though not taller than George, were much heavier, and in wrestling at the close Indian hug, he seldom gained much triumph, but in all exercises of agility, they stood no chance with him.

These young men by spending their evenings together, in innocent exercises, contracted a friendship which lasted for life. Twenty-five years after, when Washington was called to lead the American army, he gave commissions to all of these young men, who chose to join the army. William Crawford was advanced to the office of Colonel. Hugh Stinson, who was noted for snapping his eyes when any thing pleased him, would brighten up at the name of Washington, and would say to his friends, "that he and his brother John had often laid the conqueror of England on his back ; but in the running and jumping, they were no match for Washington." \*

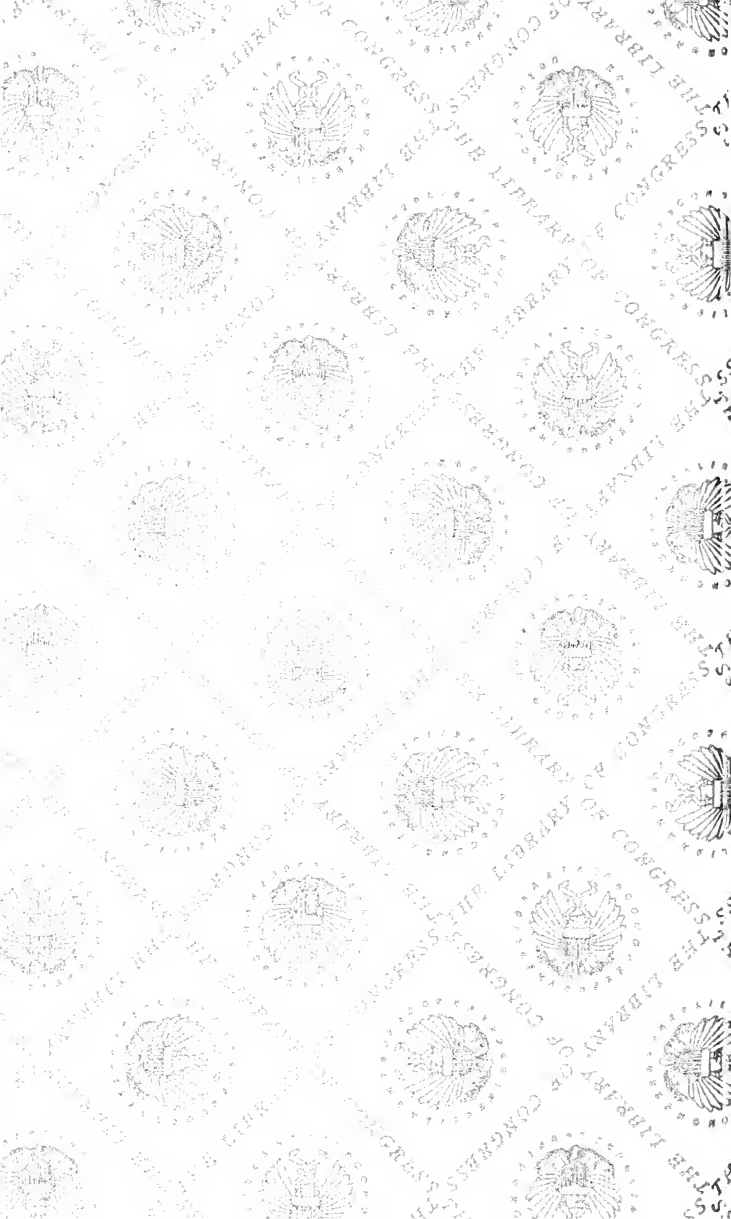
A SIGHT AT WASHINGTON.—"In the year 1790, I stood upon the door step of the counting-house, of which I was then the youngest clerk, when the companion beside me hurriedly said : 'There he

\* Weems' Life of Washington.

comes ! there comes Washington !' I looked up Pearl street, and saw approaching, with stately tread and open brow, the father of my country.—His hat was off, for the day was sultry, and he was accompanied by Col. Page and James Madison.—Never have I forgotten, nor shall I forget, till my dying day, the serene expression of the countenance of that MAN. His lofty mien and commanding figure, set off to advantage by an elegant dress, consisting of a blue coat, buff small clothes, silver knee and shoe-buckles, and white vest ; his powdered locks and powerful, vigorous look, for he was then in the prime and strength of manhood, have never faded from my mind, during the many years, with the changes, which have rolled between ! As WASHINGTON passed the place where I stood, his mild, clear blue eye, fell upon me, and it seemed as though his very glance was a benediction.—Many years after, I dwelt in the very house in which the Great Defender lived ; I slept in the very room in which he slumbered. Sometimes an ancient friend of the family would point out with irrepressible pleasure and honorable pride, the very spot where ' the General ' stood, and where his ' Lady ' stood, on grand reception days. And then the old man, sighing, said to my mother, with the ever retrospective glance of age, ' Ah ! madame, those were palmy days !'—*An aged man.*

THE END.





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